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which was on watch there. Suddenly they hear, not far off, a voice—"Who goes there?" then again, and yet a third time. In alarm they retreat behind the trees—a flash startles them at scarcely fifty paces distance—a shot—a rustling in the branches—the whistling of a musket ball—then cries, exclamations, the steps of men close to them. The younger Countess had sunk fainting on the ground; and her sister, who believed her struck dead, fell on her knees in despair beside her. To this circumstance they owed their safety; the low bushes between the slender stems of the trees concealed them from the observation of the soldiers in search, who with lanterns were scouring the thicket and firing at random. It was not until after an hour of unspeakable anguish that the sisters recovered strength to steal back again. The following evening they reached Pressburg in safety, and were there concealed by a female friend, who sympathized with them. * * The following night they slept in Vienna, in the apartment of a student, to whom they had been referred from Pressburg. The young man, happy in being able to shelter two of the noblest ladies of his country, took charge of their despatches, and, like a faithful guardian, slept through the night outside the door of their room. The despatches were written in the language of the country, provided with the great seal of the Government, and destined to be transmitted to the Ministries of France and England. These noble ladies journeyed by Oedenburg back to their quiet valley on the Waag, where they remained until the conclusion of the war."

Nor were they only the inferior agents of the statesman who found themselves in these romantic and perilous positions. The reader will remember that when Prince Windischgrätz arrived in Pesth, few persons in England expected the Magyar struggle to be renewed. Of the west of Hungary, Comorn only held out; and the agents of Vienna almost persuaded the commander of that fortress to surrender on the ground that the war was ended. It was thought impossible for Kossuth to communicate with the garrison; but as soon as the armies began their movements from Debreczin, he appointed our countryman, General Guyon, to the command, with orders to get to his post in the best way he could. An absurd story was told at the time in all the German and English newspapers, to the effect that at the head of a dozen hussars he fought his way through all the beleaguering armies of Austria. The real facts are given by M. Schlesinger as follows.—

"A dirty-looking Jew, in a torn shabby coat, an old hat, and with uncombed hair, is seen wandering up and down one street after another at Baja, and inquiring for a cheap conveyance to carry him to Bonyhad. The Jew, according to ancient custom, wears ostentatiously over his coat a jacket yellowed with age: at his back he carries a box containing matches, needles, and shoe-blackening,—the portable booth out of which he has to get his livelihood, and whose contents he offers for sale to the passers-by with greedy importunity. One man snubs him and buys a pennyworth of some article; a second purchases nothing, but takes the liberty of bestowing on him some abusive epithet; the village boys, just broken loose from school, where they have been reading of the sufferings and meekness of Christ, vent their wrath on the accursed race by pelting the unhappy Jew with dirt; nay, even the dogs in the street seem to know the Paria, and run barking round him. Last of all, a troop of Croat soldiers, reeling out of a tavern, plunder his store of blacking, and in their drunken wantonness fall to blackening the feet of St. Nepomuk, who stands under the two white poplars. Fortunately a clergyman, chancing to pass that way, takes the poor pedlar to his vicarage, to shelter him from ill-treatment. The name of this kind Samaritan we know not, but we remember the name of the Jew—it has an outlandish sound—Guyon de Gey, Baron of Pamplun. The high-born Briton had adopted this disguise not without reason. The pedlar has at all times the privilege of roving through field and forest, village and town; and of all the various languages spoken between the Leytha and the Maros, Guyon was acquainted with none except

the dialect of the Polish Jews. He was a perfect master of this language, in which respect, as well as in personal bravery, he had no equal among the Austrian officers except Count Schlik. This General gained his knowledge of oriental languages from his long residence in Galicia, where intercourse with the Jews is as indispensable to existence as the air to breathing. Probably Guyon likewise, during his service in the Imperial army, had been in garrison there long enough to be able now to try his hand in the character of a Jewish pedlar. How far Guyon travelled about in this disguise, remains a secret with himself; but the skill and success with which he acted his part are proved by his safe arrival at Komorn. The story of his having, with twelve Hussars, fought his way through the midst of the investing corps of the enemy, is a mere fable. People are never at a loss when inventing marvellous stories of their favourite heroes, and there was no enterprize of danger and heroism which the Hussars were not ready to attribute to Guyon. Guyon's sudden appearance in the fortress, the fame which had preceded him, his resolute character, together with the accounts he gave of the enemy's positions, of the general enthusiasm of the country and the increased strength of the Magyar army, of Görgey, Bem, and Kossuth, restored the confidence of the officers in the garrison."

From this scene we pass towards the mournful conclusion of these high hopes and heroic efforts. The overpowering forces of Russia have succeeded—Görgey has given up to despair the last hopes of Hungary—the hangman, Haynau, is at his work.—

"On the 6th of October thirteen generals and staff-officers were executed. Four of these heroic men met their end at daybreak, the commutation of their sentence to 'powder and lead' exempting them from the anguish of witnessing the death of their companions-in-arms. Amongst the rest was Ernest Kiss. His brother had become insane after Görgey's treachery; his cousin had fallen, a second Leonidas, in the defence of the Rothenthurm-Pass; he himself, the richest landed proprietor in the Banat, whose hospitable castle was all the year round filled with Austrian cavaliers and officers, was on the 6th of October sentenced to death by the Austrian court-martial, on which sat many of the former partakers of his hospitality. His friends at Vienna had interceded to save his life, but in vain. He died a painful death: the Austrian soldiers who were ordered to carry the sentence into effect, and who for a whole year had faced the fire of the Hungarian artillery, trembled before their defenceless victim: three separate volleys were fired before Kiss fell—his death-struggles lasted full ten minutes. The report of the firing was heard in the castle, where those officers sentenced to be hung were preparing for death. Pötenberg had been in a profound sleep, and startled, as he told the Austrian officer, by the first volley, he had jumped out of bed. The unhappy man had been dreaming that he was in face of the enemy, and heard the firing of alarm signals at his outposts:—it was the summons from the grave. At 6 o'clock in the morning the condemned officers were led to the place of execution. Old Aulich died first: he was the most advanced in years, and the court-martial seemed thus to respect the natural privilege of age. Distinguished by his zeal and efforts in the cause of his country, more than by the success which attended them, Aulich was inferior to many of his comrades in point of talent; but in uprightness and strength of character none surpassed him. Count Leiningen was the third in succession, and the youngest. An opportunity had been offered him late on the preceding evening of escaping by flight; but he would not separate his fate from that of his brother-in-law, who was a prisoner in the fortress. His youth, perhaps, inspired him with a desire of giving to his elder companions in sorrow around him an example of heroic stoicism in death; and, on reaching the place of execution, he exclaimed, with melancholy humour, 'They ought at least to have treated us to a breakfast!' One of the guard of soldiers compassionately handed him his wine-flask. 'Thank you, my friend,' said the young General, 'I want no wine to give me courage,—bring me a glass of water.' He then wrote on his knee with a pencil the following farewell words to his brother-in-law: 'The shots which this morning

laid my poor comrades low still resound in my ears, and before me hangs the body of Aulich on the gallows. In this solemn moment when I must prepare to appear before my Creator, I once more protest against the charges of cruelty at the taking of Buda which an infamous slanderer has raised against me. On the contrary, I have on all occasions protected the Austrian prisoners. I commend to you my poor Liska and my two children. I die for a cause which always appeared to me just and holy. If in happier days my friends ever desire to avenge my death, let them reflect, that humanity is the best political wisdom. As for * * * here the hangman interrupted him: it was time to die. Török, Lahner, Pötenberg, Nagy Sandor, Knezhich, died one after the other. Vecsey was the last; perhaps they wished, by this nine-fold aggravation of his torments, to make him suffer for the destruction caused by his cannon at Temesvár. Damianich preceded him. The usual dark colour of his large features was heightened by rage and impatience. His view had never extended further than the glittering point of his heavy sabre; this was the star which he had followed throughout life; but now he saw whither it had conducted him, and impatiently he exclaimed, when limping up to the gallows, 'Why is it that I, who have always been foremost to face the enemy's fire, must here be the last?' The deliberate slowness of the work of butchery seemed to disconcert him more than the approach of death, which he had defied in a hundred battles. This terrible scene lasted from six until nine o'clock."

A good deal of space is given by M. Schlesinger to a development of the characters of the good genius and the evil one of the struggle—Kossuth and Görgey. Count Pulszky also furnishes a separate biography of the general. Their estimates, taken from entirely different points of view, are not incompatible. They both acquit him of the charge of having sold his country for gold. They cannot forget that he is an Hungarian. They attribute his treachery simply to envy of Kossuth; a passion which they think became powerful enough to induce him to disregard his own fair fame, his country's rights, and the lives of his companions in glory to the prompting of a remorseless vanity. He would not be second to the man whom history will pronounce to be immeasurably his superior. This view of his character and case we find it difficult to adopt. While Pötenberg (who loved him) and Damianich and Vecsey lie in dishonoured graves,—and while Kossuth, who raised him from an obscure position to the highest rank, languishes in a foreign prison,—he lives, a guest, on the Austrian soil, and is rewarded with a pension by the Viennese government! This fact involves the whole moral of his story.

Hungary and Europe have pronounced upon these two men. Kossuth in a dungeon is still a power: the hearts and the hopes of his countrymen are still with him in his exile. Should events lead to fresh changes in the east, says M. Schlesinger, "Kossuth will re-enter his country, hailed with a welcome such as no man on earth has ever received from a nation."

The second work whose title heads this article is a book avowedly on the Austrian side. "Among the many interesting narratives and articles," says Mr. Tyndale, "which have been laid before the English public relative to the late Austrian and Hungarian war, the greater part have proceeded either from Hungarian sources or from the advocates of the cause adopted by that nation." The present volume is, therefore, offered as a slight contribution to the other way. So far as we can judge either from internal evidence or from Mr. Tyndale's own extremely indistinct statements, the manner in which the book has been got up seems to be this.—One or two subalterns in the Austrian army of the South either kept notes of their marchings and skirmishings during the campaign, or were induced to scribble off their re-

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collections of the same afterwards; and these notes and jottings came into Mr. Tyndale's hands, were by him reduced to form and adapted to the English market. The sketches, he says, "are offered with no pretensions to polish or brilliancy; but simply on their sole and intrinsic value of being statements of eye-witnesses." Even in this respect, we must say, their value is very small. In the first place, so ill are the jottings arranged, and so little care is taken to keep the general tenor of the story to which they belong before the mind of the reader, that the book can be of no use to one who wants to know anything of the history of the Hungarian war. Again, the spirit of the book is poor and coarse,—just what might be expected from a rough, truculent subaltern, caring nothing about the right or wrong of the struggle in which he was engaged,—knowing nothing about its general bearings,—and interested only in his own little bit of the affair; as, how he slashed down a Hungarian in such and such a fight,—how he and his comrades had nothing to eat or drink, and were all but frost-bitten on such and such a night,—how, after the taking of Vienna by Windischgrätz, he and the said comrades swaggered about the streets, got plenty of cigars, and amused themselves with "applying their toes" to the "students," the "proletaires," and other "vagabondish, barri- cading-looking fellows" who came in their way, having now no farther desire to cut such "animals" down,—how, at such and such a village they entered a Hungarian monastery, and gave the godly fathers a good beating, &c. Occasionally, notwithstanding, there occurs in the book a little trait or particular of some picturesque quality, capable of being wrought into a better narrative: but this is the utmost that can be said in favour of the book. We give an instance.

"A Croat had broken into a house and stolen a small bottle of brandy, but having been discovered in the theft, and the case having reached his commander's ears, he was left behind to meet his fate. Some of our officers happened to come up as the poor fellow was led out for execution; and they described the scene as one of the most phlegmatic exhibitions they ever witnessed. He was perfectly cool, quiet, and at his ease, and showed not the slightest fear of death; the only thing that troubled him was the idea that he was to be deprived of life, and of all further Slikowitz, for having taken merely one small bottle of it; the act he considered justifiable, because he was 'bitten to do so by the intense cold,' though he acknowledged his indiscretion in having obeyed the order so clumsily as to be found out. This Predestinarian and Spartan reasoning seemed to weigh also with many of the bystanders: but the moral effect was good, especially as it tended to show the ability of the Hungarian statements of our laxity of discipline, and neglect to restrain our men from disorder and libertinage. There was little ceremony, either military, civil, or religious; no touches of sentiment gave an exciting interest or gloss to the bare facts of Slikowitz and shooting; the bandaging his eyes, trying his hands, kneeling, and lodging half-a-dozen bullets in his breast, were of so un-dramatic a nature, and so speedily performed, that it gave rather the idea that the Croatian officers who carried out the sentence, in their comparison of the value of time, cold weather, and human life, considered the two former to be of far greater importance than the latter."

About a third part of the volume consists of a kind of appendix, containing biographical sketches of Görgey, Kossuth, Bem, Dembinski, Klapka, Batthyányi, &c. These are said to be freely translated from the German,—though from what particular German sources is not stated. Although no evidence is adduced to prove their authenticity, and although a low and sneering tone pervades them, they are tolerably clear and lively; and at all events, much more readable than the narrative to which they are clumsily appended.

Anecdotes of the Aristocracy, and Episodes of Ancestral Story. By J. Bernard Burke, Esq. Second Series. 2 vols. Churton.

TITLE and book are here not quite agreed. For the sake of a good story Mr. Burke has let in among his "aristocracy" more than one character with whom *Fitz* and *Ville* might object to fraternize, as not belonging to their "order." Waiving, however, grandeur and exclusiveness, and warning the reader that no remarkable amount of research awaits him in these volumes, the "Anecdotes" which they contain may be commended as pleasant summer reading. A few pages are more than pleasant; interesting as contributing information to those who love "family secrets,"—and to whom the rise, progress, and fall of ancient races is a matter of pursuit. Take, for example, the following paragraphs on 'The Decadence of Families.'—

"What race in Europe surpassed in royal position, in personal achievement, our Henrys and our Edwards? and yet we find the great-great-grandson of Margaret Plantagenet, daughter and heiress of a Cobbe! at the little town of Newport in Shropshire, in the year 1637. Besides, if we were to investigate the fortunes of many of the inheritors of the royal arms, it would soon be discovered that the aspiring blood of Lancaster had sunk into the ground. The princely stream flows at the present time through very humble veins. Among the lineal descendants of Edmund of Woodstock, Earl of Kent, sixth son of Edward I., King of England, entitled to quarter the royal arms, occur Mr. Joseph Smart, of Hales Owen, butcher, and Mr. George Wilmot, keeper of the turnpike gate at Cooper's Bank, near Dudley; and among the descendants of Thomas Plantagenet, Duke of Gloucester, fifth son of Edward III., we may mention Mr. Stephen James Penny, the late sexton at St. George's, Hanover Square.

"The last male representative of the great Dukes of Buckingham, Roger Stafford, born at Malpas in Cheshire, about the year 1572, was refused the inheritance of his family honours on account of his poverty, and sunk into utter obscurity. This unfortunate youth went by the name of Fludd; indignant that his patronymic of Stafford should be associated with his humble lot.

"Of the Nevills—the direct heir in the senior line, Charles, sixth Earl of Westmoreland, lived to an advanced age in the Low Countries 'meanly and miserably,' and George Nevill, who was created Duke of Bedford by King Edward IV., that he might be of suitable rank to espouse the Lady Elizabeth Plantagenet, was eventually degraded from all titles and rank, on the ground of indigence.

"The Cromwells were of consideration and high county standing, in Huntingdonshire, seated at the fine old mansion of Hinchinbroke, and descended in the female line, from Cromwell, Earl of Essex, of the time of Henry VIII. Its chief, as well as many of its members, fought manfully under the royal banner. At the present time, seven Peers of the realm trace descent from the Lord Protector, viz., the Earls of Morley, Chichester, Rothes, Cowper, Clarendon, De Grey, and Ripon; but, as a contrast to this fair side of the picture, we must honestly confess, that within a hundred years after Oliver's death, some of his descendants were reduced to the depths of poverty, almost begging their daily bread. It is a singular fact, that an estate, which was granted to George Monk, Duke of Albemarle, for restoring the monarchy, should, by intermarriages, eventually vest in the late Oliver Cromwell, Esq., of Cheshunt, who died in 1821, being then the last male descendant of the Protector.

"It has been asserted, we know not exactly with what truth, that in Herefordshire, a county peculiarly rich in ancient families, there are but two or three county gentlemen who can show a male descent from the proprietors recorded in the Visitations. In the North, these genealogical vicissitudes have been hastened by the influence of manufacturers' gold, which has done so much to uproot the old proprietary of the soil, that we marvel how in Lancashire and the West Riding of Yorkshire such families as

Townley, Gerard, Blackburne, Blundell, Trafford, Fairfax, Foljambe, Hamerton, and Wentworth, 'have stood against the waves and weathers of time.'

"The story of the Gargraves is a melancholy chapter in the romance of real life. For full two centuries, or more, scarcely a family in Yorkshire enjoyed a higher position. Its chiefs earned distinction in peace and war; one died in France, Master of the Ordnance to King Henry V.; another, a soldier too, fell with Salisbury, at the siege of Orleans; and a third filled the Speaker's chair of the House of Commons.... Thomas Gargrave, the Speaker's eldest son, was hung at York, for murder; and his half-brother, Sir Richard, endured a fate only less miserable. The splendid estate he inherited he wasted by the most wanton extravagance, and at length reduced himself to abject want. 'His excesses,' says Mr. Hunter, in his History of Doncaster, 'are still, at the expiration of two centuries, the subject of village tradition, and his attachment to gaming is commemorated in an old painting, long preserved in the neighbouring mansion of Badsworth, in which he is represented playing at the old game of Put, the right hand against the left, for the stake of a cup of ale.' The close of Sir Richard's story is as lamentable as its course. An utter bankrupt in means and reputation, he is stated to have been reduced to travel with the pack-horses to London, and was at last found dead in an old hostelry! He had married Catherine, sister of Lord Danvers, and by her left three daughters. Of the descendants of his brothers, few particulars can be ascertained. Not many years since, a Mr. Gargrave, believed to be one of them, filled the mean employment of parish clerk of Kippax.

"A similar melancholy narrative applies to another great Yorkshire house. Sir William Reresby, Bart., son and heir of the celebrated author, succeeded, at the death of his father, in 1689, to the beautiful estate of Thrybergh, in Yorkshire, where his ancestors had been seated, uninterruptedly from the time of the Conquest, and he lived to see himself denuded of every acre of his broad lands. Le Neve states, in his MSS. preserved in the Herald's College, that he became a tapster in the King's Bench Prison, and was tried and imprisoned for cheating in 1711. He was alive in 1727, when Wotton's account of the Baronets was published. In that work he is said to be reduced to a low condition. At length he died in great obscurity, a melancholy instance how low pursuits and base pleasures may sully the noblest name, and waste an estate gathered with labour and preserved by the care of a race of distinguished progenitors. Gaming was amongst Sir William's follies—particularly that lowest specimen of the folly—the fights of game cocks. The tradition at Thrybergh is (for his name is not quite forgotten) that the fine estate of Dennyby was staked and lost on a single main. Sir William Reresby was not the only baronet who disgraced his order at that period. In 1722 Sir Charles Burton was tried at the Old Bailey for stealing a seal; pleaded poverty, but was found guilty, and sentenced to transportation, which sentence was afterwards commuted for a milder punishment."

Let us just glance at a moral which could be derived from the above, and—for the sake of such readers as have a lingering love of "oracles" and old saws, and as will treasure up tales of "the Worme of Lambton," and of Scott's *Laird Nippy*, as though, indeed, laws were to be drawn therefrom and conclusions built on them, respecting the perpetuation and extinction of families,—let us venture to point out how "low pursuits and base pleasures" will in every case supply that mysterious canker which the lovers of the marvellous delight in assigning to certain institutions or races as having a periodicity independent of circumstance. Out of coincidences let the coffee-cup sorcerers shape their horoscopes, —shaking their heads over numbers elected by Fortune or Misfortune, over epochs in every century when peoples are to "wax fat and kick" and monarchs are to fall down like the mouse in the nursery song, over junctures in every family when, like Plane and Pippin, the "old stock" is to be exhausted and must die out:—but to

coffee-cup sorcerers, and not to philosophers, legislators, or even poets, will we hand over such experiences as *data* worth a second thought.

'The Eccentric Mirror,' or some such periodical, may have yielded Mr. Burke the grotesque full-length of amiable Sir John Dinely on his pattens, perpetually advertising for a wife, as under:—

"To the angelic fair of the true English breed:—worthy notice. Sir John Dinely, of Windsor Castle, recommends himself and his ample fortune to any angelic beauty of good breed, fit to become, and willing to be, a mother of a noble heir, and keep up the name of an ancient family, ennobled by deeds of arms and ancestral renown. Ladies at a certain period of life need not apply, as heirship is the object of the mutual contract offered by the ladies' sincere admirer, Sir John Dinely. Fortune favours the bold. Such ladies as this advertisement may induce to apply, or send their agents (but not servants or matrons), may direct to me at the Castle, Windsor. Happiness and pleasure are agreeable objects, and should be regarded as well as honour. The lady who shall thus become my wife will be a Baroness, and rank accordingly as Lady Dinely, of Windsor. Goodwill and favour to all ladies of Great Britain; pull no caps on his account, but favour him with your smiles, and pawns of pleasure await your steps."

"Grace O'Malley," *alias* Granu Waile, the old-world Queen of Connemara, is a personage who has already figured largely in the legendary literature of "the Emerald Isle." What an odd contrast does such a sublime, romantic "Wild Irish" woman make to the "actresses raised by marriage," to the Anastasia Robinsons and Lavinia Bestwicks,—to the Bruntons and the Farens, who are, a few pages later, succinctly clubbed in one and the same paragraph by Mr. Burke!

The chapter describing Fonthill Abbey—that "romance in stone and lime," if there ever was such a thing—might have been with small trouble enriched, to its great benefit, by such a simple measure, for instance, as a reference to the illustrated work of Mr. Rutter, of Salisbury, in which some of the most remarkable features of that magical pile were depicted and described.—There was more to be said, too, concerning "old Q," though much more still remained behind which no Burke or other anecdote-gatherer could or should record.—'The Lives of the Lindsays' and the 'Memoirs of Lady Hester Stanhope' have yielded their *quotas* of anecdote.—But here is a family history, which, being strange to ourselves, we may be justified in giving to our readers, as being less familiar than any of the above.—

"Prince George of Denmark, in passing through Bristol, went to the Exchange, accompanied by one of his attendants, and remained there until the merchants had pretty generally withdrawn, none of whom had sufficient resolution to address his Highness. At last, one Duddelstone, a bodice-maker, mustered courage, and inquired of the Prince if he were not the husband of Queen Anne. Having received an affirmative reply, Duddelstone expressed the deep concern he felt that none of the merchants had invited his Highness home, assured him that the neglect arose from no disrespect to the Queen, but from a diffidence of their means of entertainment, and finished by entreating the Prince and the gentleman who was with him, to accompany him to his house, 'where,' added Duddelstone, 'a good piece of beef and a plum-pudding, with ale of my dame's own brewing, and a welcome of loyalty and respect await your presence.' Prince George was much amused with the bodice-maker's request, and, although he had ordered dinner at the White Hart, cheerfully accepted the invitation. Duddelstone, on arriving at home, called his wife, who was upstairs, desiring her to put on a clean apron, and come down, for the Queen's husband and another gentleman were come to dine with them. In the course of the repast, the Prince requested the bodice-maker to return the visit at the palace, and to bring his wife with him, giving him a card to facilitate his introduction at court. A few months after, Dud-

destone, with his wife behind him on horseback, set out for London, where they soon found the Prince, and were introduced to the Queen. Her Majesty received them most graciously, and invited them to an approaching dinner, telling them that they must have new clothes for the occasion. Dresses of purple velvet, the colour they selected, were consequently prepared, and Duddelstone and his worthy dame were introduced by the Queen herself as the most loyal persons in Bristol, and the only ones in that city who had invited the Prince, her husband, to their house. After the entertainment was over, the Queen desired Duddelstone to kneel, laid a sword on his head, and, to use Lady Duddelstone's own words, said to him, 'Ston up, Sir Jan.' He was then offered money or a place under government; but he would not accept either, informing the Queen that he had 50*l.* out at interest, and he apprehended that the number of people he saw about court must be very expensive. The Queen made Lady Duddelstone a present of her gold watch from her side, which her ladyship considered so great an ornament, that she never went to market without having it suspended over her blue apron. Sir John Duddelstone, rising still higher in royal favour, was created a baronet, 11th January 1691, but the sun of his prosperity soon set. In the great storm of 1704, he lost more than 20,000*l.*, and was sadly reduced, so much so, indeed, that his grandson and heir, Sir John Duddelstone, the second baronet, held an humble appointment in the Customs at Bristol, and was living in the year 1727, in a very low condition."

We could continue such desultory annotations and illustrations as the foregoing for some score of columns to come; but enough has been given to recommend Mr. Burke's 'Anecdotes' to the miscellaneous reader without his being led to expect anything very recondite from the series.

Narrative of an Expedition to the Shores of the Arctic Sea in 1846 and 1847. By John Rae. Boone.

It is recorded of a gentleman who was fated to spend some dreary months in a high northern latitude in America, that the usual reply which he received from his servant to the question—"What sort of night has it been?"—was, "Why, Sir, in the fore part of the night it snowed, but toward morning it frizz horrid." Adding day to night this meteorological bulletin would hold good for the greater portion of the seasons spent in the Arctic regions by that hardy company of explorers who have shed lustre on the country that sent them out on the perilous mission of planting her flag in the regions of "thick-ribbed ice." To that gallant band is now to be added the name of John Rae; who with power of endurance combines excessive fortitude and coolness in the hour of danger. His high moral and physical qualities won the esteem and admiration of Sir John Richardson,—and the unpretending narrative now before us will tend to confirm the sentiment pre-existing in his favour.

The Expedition which forms the subject of Mr. Rae's narrative was, our readers know, suggested so long ago as 1840; and was intended to have been placed under the command of that able and enterprising traveller Mr. Thomas Simpson,—whose indefatigable exertions, in conjunction with those of Mr. Dease, had during the three preceding years added so much to our geographical knowledge of Arctic America. His untimely end prevented that intention from being carried into effect, and the survey of the coast was discontinued for a few years. In 1845 the matter was taken up by Sir George Simpson, governor-in-chief of the Hudson's Bay Company's territories;—who planned an Expedition, the leading features of which were as follows.—To leave Churchill in two boats manned by thirteen persons, including two Esquimaux interpreters, on the breaking up of the ice, and coast along the western shore of Hudson's Bay to the northward as far as Repulse Bay,—or, if thought neces-

sary, to the Strait of the Fury and Hecla. From this latter point the shore of the Arctic Sea was to be traced to the point of Dease and Simpson's farthest discoveries eastward; or, if Boothia Felix should be found to form part of the American continent, then it was to be examined to the point where the surveys of Sir John and Sir James Ross terminated.

The command of the Expedition was offered to Mr. Rae,—who "most joyfully accepted the trust." The boats selected were two strong clinker-built craft, 22 feet long by 7 feet 6 inches broad, named the North Pole and the Magnet, each capable of carrying between fifty and sixty bales of 90 lb. a piece. They were rigged with lug sails and a jib; under which with a strong breeze of wind they were found to work admirably. The Expedition left Churchill on the 5th of July, 1846, and reached Repulse Bay on the 24th. From thence they crossed Rae Isthmus, and with great difficulty proceeded as far as a few miles past Point Hargrave,—when, on the 3rd of August, they were completely stopped by the ice. They ran ashore; and found a large wooden sledge, which they cut up for fuel. "The wood," observes Mr. Rae, "was evidently the planks of some vessel, (probably of the Fury, or of Sir John Ross's steamer the Victory), as there were holes in it bored by an auger." Inquiries from the Esquimaux failed, our readers are aware, to elicit any intelligence respecting Sir John Franklin. Mr. Rae returned to Repulse Bay, where preparations were forthwith made to pass the winter. The prospects of the party were not very cheering; nevertheless they seem to have set to work with great zeal and goodwill.—

"All hands were now busily employed making preparations for a long and dreary winter; for this purpose four men were set to work to collect stores for building a house, whilst the others were occupied in setting nets, hunting deer, and gathering fuel. Our work was much impeded by rainy weather, particularly the house building, as the clay or mud was washed away as soon as applied. We found that our nets were so much cut up by a small marine insect from a half to three-quarters of an inch long, resembling a shrimp in miniature—the favourite food of the salmon—that it was quite impossible to keep them in repair. I thought to destroy their taste for hemp by steeping the nets in a strong decoction of tobacco, but it had no effect. On the 2nd of September our house was finished; its internal dimensions were 20 feet long by 14 feet broad, height in front 7½ feet, sloping to 5½ feet at the back. We formed a very good roof by using the oars and masts of our boats as rafters, and covering them with oilcloth and moose skin, the latter being fixed to the lower or inside of the rafters, whilst the former was placed on the outside to run off the rain. The door was made of parchment deer-skin, stretched over a frame of wood. The walls were fully two feet thick, with three small openings, in which a like number of windows, each having two panes of glass, were placed. Our establishment was dignified with the name of Fort Hope, and was situated in 66° 32' 16" N.; longitude (by a number of sets of lunar distances with objects on both sides of the moon) 86° 55' 51" W. The variation of the compass on 30th August was 62° 50' 30" W.; mean dip of the needle, and the mean twice of a hundred vertical vibrations in the line of declination 226°. A sort of room was formed at one end by putting up a partition of oilcloth. In this, besides its serving as my quarters, all our pemmican and some of the other stores were stowed away."

The little Expedition suffered under the terrible disadvantage of being entirely ignorant of the resources of the country. It was not likely that the deer would remain near them during the winter; and it was evident that after the snow should begin to fall, which would be early in September, fuel would not be procurable. No time was, therefore, to be lost in obtaining a sufficient supply of provisions for the

winter killed 172 par in the net the net All th upon th that th cloth "Chris weather short g it was, faces w in one p applica about, duced a posed of a modern health ing the any k imme Back as ace, in from to a lake t mile dis beauti new year the tem a most of the part rited gain the, the pairs of time. M gin-deer course. except t small su whole I could he Ts true a glass of to speak future, r pleasant the merr among n pleasure. So the fare wh April 18 to the n mittie K plored. narrative adventu party.—Franklin occasion template upper; relieved five fati evidence "I ha and have and, on— now sho ac. on m the most were ex had much in excell kept up ing our b our imagi at Fort H The e mittie B mother dition of Barren t

winter consumption. In September the animals killed amounted to 63 deer, 5 hares, 1 seal, 172 partridges, and 116 salmon and trout; and in the following month 69 deer were shot, but the nets produced only 18 salmon and 4 trout. All the rigour of an Arctic winter now came upon the party, aggravated by the circumstance that they could not afford fuel to dry their clothes. Nevertheless, we are told that—

"Christmas-day was passed very agreeably, but the weather was so stormy and cold that only a very short game at football could be played. Short as it was, however, it was sufficiently amusing, for our faces were every moment getting frost-bitten either in one place or another, so as to require the continual application of the hand; and the rubbing, running about, and kicking the ball all at the same time, produced a very ludicrous effect. Our dinner was composed of excellent venison and a plum-pudding, with a moderate allowance of brandy punch to drink a health to absent friends. For some time past washing the face had been rather an unpleasant operation, as any water that got among the hair froze upon it immediately. This is mentioned by Sir George Back as having occurred once to him at Fort Reliance, in 1833. On the 28th, North Pole River got frozen to the bottom, so that we were forced to go to a lake to the S.W. of Beacon Hill, about half a mile distant, for water. The 1st of January was as beautiful a day as we could have wished to begin the new year with. There was a light air of wind, and the temperature varied from -23° to -26°. After a most excellent breakfast of fat venison steaks, all the party were occupied for some hours with a spirited game at foot-ball, at which there was much fun, the snow being so hard and slippery that several pairs of heels might be seen in the air at the same time. My dinner consisted of part of a hare and reindeer tongue, with a currant pudding as second course. The men's mess was much like my own, except that they had venison instead of hare. A small supply of brandy was served out, and on the whole I do not believe that a more happy company could have been found in America, large as it is. To be true that an agreeable companion to join me in a glass of punch, to drink a health to absent friends, to speak of by-gone times and speculate on the future, might have made the evening pass more pleasantly, yet I was far from unhappy. To hear the merry joke, the hearty laugh, and lively song among my men, was of itself a source of much pleasure."

So the winter passed:—the lowest temperature which was experienced being -47°. In April 1847 preparations were made to proceed to the north,—and the entire east coast of Committee Bay as high as 69°¹⁰ latitude was explored. We must refer our readers to Mr. Rae's narrative for the exciting account of the many adventures and hardships encountered by the party;—which strongly remind us of those in Franklin's celebrated land journey. On one occasion provisions ran so low, that it was contemplated to boil a piece of parchment skin for supper; from which necessity the party were relieved by killing a few marmots. The excessive fatigue which they endured is strikingly evidenced by the following extract:—

"I have had considerable practice in walking, and have often accomplished between forty and fifty, and on one occasion, sixty-five miles in a day, on snow shoes, with a day's provisions, blanket, axe, &c. on my back; but our journey hitherto had been the most fatiguing I had ever experienced. The severe exercise, with a limited allowance of food, had much reduced the whole party, yet we were all in excellent health; and although we lost flesh, we kept up our spirits, and marched merrily on, tightening our belts—mine came in six inches—and feasting our imaginations on full allowance when we arrived at Fort Hope."

The exploration of the west coast of Committee Bay as high as Lord Mayor's Bay formed another Expedition, and resulted in the acquisition of considerable geographical knowledge. Barren tracts of land were formally taken pos-

session of in the name of Queen Victoria. The weather was very unpropitious during this journey; but the party met with much kindness from the Esquimaux with whom they fell in. Indeed, throughout their wanderings these people appear to have acted in the most friendly manner. On one occasion, when Mr. Rae was about to put on a pair of boots which were stiff and hard from the intense cold, a female Esquimaux took them from him and began chewing the leather with her strong teeth. "This," adds our author, "is the mode in which they prepare and soften the seal skin for their boots, and they are seldom without a piece of leather to gnaw when they have no better occupation for their teeth."—Before the winter of 1847 had set in, Mr. Rae had conducted his party to York Factory; having succeeded in accomplishing the main objects of the Expedition. A list of the Fauna collected during the journey, with their localities, is appended to the work,—as are also a valuable series of magnetical and meteorological observations which Mr. Rae succeeded in making despite the most trying meteorological difficulties.

The People of the Caucasus, and their Struggle for Liberty with the Russians.—[*Die Völker des Caucasus, &c.*] By Friedrich Bodenstedt. Second Edition. Frankfurt am Main, Lizius; London, Nutt.

The vicissitudes of the war in the Caucasus of late have been surprising enough to awaken the interest of Western Europe, even amidst her own nearer anxieties. Last year it was said that the conquest of Achulgo, the stronghold of the redoubtable Schamyl, had effectually broken the power of that daring leader. In direct contradiction to such reports, later accounts from Daghestan tell of the re-appearance of the notable partisan amidst the lines of the Russians, and of a defeat of the latter, the most severe, if the details of the event be true, that they have yet suffered in the Caucasus. In any case, these exciting changes of fortune would be in favour of a book professing to describe this interesting region and to add to our knowledge of its brave inhabitants. The main interest of Herr Bodenstedt's work will now be enhanced by its undertaking to give a more precise account than had previously appeared of the priest-warrior of Daghestan, and of the new sect as the prophet of which he succeeded in arraying the independent mountain clans against their common enemy with a kind of combination unknown in earlier periods of the struggle.

The author has evidently lived for some time in the region which he describes, or in the bordering districts along the Caspian, both in Georgia and in North Daghestan. His acquaintance with Asiatic and Russian languages and customs appears to have been gained both by study and from intercourse with the natives of the south-eastern frontier. He is not ignorant of Oriental writings that refer to his subject; and his Russian statistics prove an access to official authorities which are not to be found in print. These, however obtained, can scarcely have been imparted to him as one of those writers whom the Court of St. Petersburg hires to promote its views through the press of Western Europe. His sympathies are declared against Russian usurpation; and the tendency of his essay is to prove how little real progress it has yet made in subduing the Caucasus, the enormous waste of money and life with which its fluctuating successes have been bought, and the fallacy of expecting a better result hereafter. In this view he agrees with Wagner,—of whose travels in the Caucasus we have already given some account [*Athen. No. 1119*].

We should, indeed, hear what he has to say

with more satisfaction, had he, like Wagner, plainly stated the nature and extent of his personal experiences in this region; what places he visited, and the time of his stay in them: still more had he told us precisely how much of the present volume—especially as regards the war between 1835 and 1842—is the result of his own observation, and what merely compiled from the notes of others. Of such second-hand materials many of the sketches from that period are avowedly made up; some principal chapters, on important passages of the war, and on the conduct of the leaders on both sides, being taken, as we are told, "from the diary of a distinguished Russian officer, long resident in Daghestan," and from the "communications of well-informed Uléma and officers, whose materials, gathered on the spot, have been permitted to use at pleasure;" while "as regards the main substance of the narrative," he refers to "a MS. in Russian,—of which several transcripts have been circulated in Tiflis,—drawn up by an officer, who fell in the late excursion into Daghestan." A section in the appendix, on the campaigns of 1841-2 is supplied, *verbatim*, by a known writer, Buddeus; and is, we may add, the clearest and most graphic chapter in the book. The other materials, having been submitted, "at pleasure," to some kind of fusion by the editor, can neither be regarded as mere extracts nor as original notices: and while the unequal texture of the work betrays its mixed ingredients, the style in which they are dressed up by the compiler has a flavour of romance, more proper to the novelist than to an historian, which impairs our faith in the exact truth of all the details that he offers us. The best part of his work is that which delineates some features of the later movement in the Caucasus hitherto but little known in Western Europe. The historical survey with which the book opens, comprising,—with a sketch of Russia's usurpation of Georgia, and a keen discussion of the pretences on which she claims the sovereignty of the Caucasus,—an account of its several clans, and of the topography and statistics of that region, and an able sketch of the origin and settlement of the Cossack tribes, is also drawn up in a soberer tone, and bears a more authentic character than the latter or narrative part. These materials it would be impossible to compress within our limits: of the ethnographic materials some idea may be formed by referring to our notice, as above, of Wagner's 'Caucasian Sketches.'

From this part we will take only the following rough estimate of the numbers of the male population of the Caucasus able to bear arms. They are given by Herr Bodenstedt, with the proviso that they are but approximate, as follows:—

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Belonging to the race of Kartvel,—including, as branches of one parent stock, the Georgians, Imcrians, Surians, Mingrelians and Suanetes | 300,000 |
| Abshadian and Tscherkessian tribes, occupying the region between the Kuban and the Black Sea, (or those commonly known to Europe under the denomination of "Circassians") | 150,000 |
| Lezgians | 350,000 |
| Armenians | 135,000 |
| Of Turkish and Persian descent | 350,000 |
| | 1,285,000 |

Other authorities compute the number variously, between one and one and a half millions. The larger estimate may not be found excessive when the extent of the region† is considered. The Lezgians we see are here rated at 350,000 fighting men:—of these, some 100,000 must be struck off, as tribes under Russian control,—the remainder will form the able male

† It is scarcely necessary to observe here that it comprises, in Daghestan especially, large tracts, below the mountain ranges, of open country, which, as well as many valleys in the upper region, are of the richest fertility.

population of that region, in which the chief warfare of the last ten years has raged. What it has cost in life on the Russian side to attack—hitherto with no lasting effect—this handful of mountaineers, may be guessed from a single note inserted in the Appendix, dated 1847.—“The present Russian force in the Caucasus”—including, of course, the armed Cossacks on the Kuban and Terek—“amounts to 200,000.” Taking into account the numbers yearly cut off by disease, more fatal even than the mountain war, every step of which must be won by the most reckless waste of life,—the “Russian Officer” may perhaps truly affirm that the annual expenditure of life by Russia in her warfare with Schamyl has for many years past exceeded the whole number of the population at any one time directly under the rule of that chieftain.

The editor's caution on the subject of Russian statistics is, however, worth remembering here.—

The foreign traveller, who wishes to obtain a glimpse of the statistical relations of this country, will do well to put more faith in printed Russian documents than in the oral data of Russian officials—those, even, whose position renders an exact knowledge of the internal circumstances of the country a positive duty. For your true Russians are never more delighted than when a foreign author sets forth in public with a good round budget of nonsense concerning their nation,—but they dread the truth, as owls do the light: like the basilisk, they would die, were they by accident to behold their own real image. For this reason, therefore, every Russian of the right sort will frankly contribute his mite to perplex the traveller's notions, and to keep truth out of the way as much as possible. * * With what satisfaction do these gentry then rub their hands when they detect mistakes which they themselves have begotten! What a rejoicing there was in the Boyar drawing-rooms when M. d'Arlincourt, in his *Etoile Polaire*, brought into the book-market all the absurdities and obsolete fictions with which he had been crammed in Moscow and Petersburg!—so many false numbers to discover! and so many wrong names! such a mass of fables, and so little truth! and Russian society depicted in a manner at once so preposterous and so highly scented—as if the author had written with a dottrel's feather dipped in attar of roses! In short, it was an ecstatic triumph: a pleasure more than enough for the heart of an orthodox Muscovite. It was but fair in the Emperor to repay the innocent delight which the noble Vicomte had thus afforded to his Majesty's subjects who speak French,—with the gift of an order.

We have said that the most instructive part of Herr Bodenstedt's essay is his sketch of that politico-religious scheme which made Schamyl formidable to the Russians. This system, it is to be observed, arose and has since been fully developed only in the Eastern Caucasus, where of late the main stress of the war has been. The western tribes (our “Circassians”) who took the lead at an earlier stage of the contest, were not then, nor have they since been inspired by the fanatic zeal which united the tribes of Daghestan. They fought from a mere love of independence, each little republic by itself; and their efforts, however heroic, being without concert, gradually declined before the vast force of the invader. In the region looking westward from the Georgian frontier on the Euxine, on the one side of the Caucasian range, and along the lower Kuban on the other, the Russian posts are now seldom threatened but by small predatory bands;—the natives, retired to their mountain villages, have for some time made but few more formidable incursions. The war is transferred to the region spreading eastward from the Elbrus to the Caspian; where the strife for free existence is animated not less by the hatred of Russian slavery than by a fresh outbreak of Mohammedan zeal against Infidel invasion,—a revival, in fact, of that warlike fanaticism which made the Mos-

lem name terrible from the eighth to the sixteenth century.

It dates from the years 1823-4; at which period a “new doctrine” began to be preached secretly at first, to the select Uléma, afterwards to greater numbers, in word and writing, by one Mullah Mohammed, a famous teacher and a judge (or *kadi*) of Jarach, in the Kurin district of Daghestan. He professed to have learnt it from Hadis-Ismail, an Alim of Kurdomir, highly famed for wisdom and sanctity. It laid bare the degradation into which his countrymen had sunk by irreligion and by the jealousy of sect; their danger, in consequence, from enemies of the true faith; and urged the necessity of reform in creed and practice, in order to regain the invincible character promised by the Prophet to believers. The theoretic part of the reformed doctrine seems to be a kind of Sufism,—the general character of which mode of Islam, long prevalent in the adjacent kingdom of Persia, has been described by our own orientalist. Disputed questions as to its origin, whether in Brahmin philosophy or in the reveries of Moslem mystics, cannot be discussed here; it must suffice to indicate those points which appear to connect it with the hieratic policy that has given a new aspect to the war in the Caucasus.

Proceeding nominally on the basis of the Koran, it inculcates or expounds a kind of spiritual transcendentalism; in which the adept is raised above the necessity of formal laws, which are only requisite for those who are not capable of rising to a full intelligence of the supreme power. To gain this height by devout contemplation must be the personal work and endeavour of each individual. The revelation of divine truth, once attained, supersedes specific moral injunctions; ceremonies and systems, even, of religion become indifferent to the mind illuminated by the sacred idea. A higher degree is the perfect conception or ecstatic vision of the Deity;—the highest—reserved only for the prophetic few—a real immediate union with his essence. Here, it will be seen, are four steps or stages, each of which has its sacred manual or appropriate system of teaching. In the hieratic system of which Schamyl is the head, the divisions seem to correspond pretty nearly with this arrangement, as follows:—

The *first* includes the mass of the armed people; whose zeal it promotes by strict religious and moral injunctions—enjoining purity of life, exact regard to the ritual of the Koran, teaching pilgrimages, fasting, ablutions; the duty of implacable war against the Infidel, the sin of enduring his tyranny.

The *second* is composed of those who, in virtue of *striving* upwards to a higher Divine intelligence, are elevated above ceremonial religion. Of these the *Murids* (*seekers* or *strugglers*), are formed: a body of religious warriors attached to the Imam, whose courage in battle, raised to a kind of frenzy, despises numbers and laughs at death. To accept quarter, or to fly from the Infidel, is forbidden to this class.

The *third* includes the more perfect acolytes, who are presumed to have risen to the ecstatic view of the Deity. These are the elect, whom the Imam makes *Naibs*, or vicegerents,—invested with nearly absolute power in his absence.

The *fourth*, or highest, implying entire union with the Divine essence, is held by Schamyl alone. In virtue of this elevation and spiritual endowment, the Imam, as an immediate organ of the Supreme Will, is himself the source of all law to his followers, unerring, impeccable; to question or disobey his behests is a sin against religion, as well as a political crime. It may be seen what advantage this system must have given to Schamyl in his

conflict with the Russians. The doctrine of the indifference of sects and forms enabled him to unite the divided followers of Omar and of Ali, in a region where both abounded, and where the schism had formerly been one of the most effectual instruments of the enemy. The belief in a Divine mission and spiritual powers sustains his adherents in all reverses; while it invites to defection from the Russian side those of the Mohammedan tribes who have submitted to the invader. Among these, however, Schamyl—like his predecessors in the same priestly office—by no means confides the progress of his sect to spiritual influences only. The work of conversion, where exhortation fails, is carried on remorselessly by fire and sword; and the Imam is as terrible to those of his countrymen whom fear or interest retains in alliance with Russia, as to the soldiers of the Czar. With a character in which extreme daring is allied with coolness, cunning, and military genius,—with a good fortune which has hitherto preserved his life in many circumstances where escape seemed impossible,—it may be seen that the belief in his supernatural gifts and privileges, once created, must always tend to increase in intensity and effect among the imaginative and credulous Mohammedans of the Caucasus; and that this apt combination of the warrior with the politician and prophet accounts for his success in combining against the Russians a force of the once discordant tribes of Daghestan, possessing more of the character of a national resistance than had been ever known before in the Caucasus,—and compelling the invaders to purchase every one of their few, trifling and dubious advances by the terrible sacrifice of life already noticed.

In this formidable movement the highlander's natural love of freedom is fanned into a blaze by a religious zeal like that which once led the armies of Islam over one half of Asia and Europe. Although it reached its highest energy and a more consummate development under Schamyl, it was begun by his predecessors. Of the Mullah Mohammed, who first preached the duty of casting off the yoke of the Giaour, and the necessity of a religious reform and union of rival sects, as a means to that end, we have already spoken. This founder of the new system, an aged man, untrained in arms, never himself drew the sword in the cause; but was active in diffusing its principles and preparing a warlike rising by exhortations and letters circulated through all Daghestan. Suspected of these designs, he was seized, in 1826, by the orders of Jermoloff; and although he escaped,—by the connivance, it is said, of the native prince employed to capture him,—he afterwards lived, in a kind of concealment, for some years. The post of Imam was thereupon assumed by a priest who was able to fight for the new doctrine as well as to preach it. The first armed outbreak took place under Kasi-Mullah, about the year 1829; from which time, until his death in a battle at Himry, in 1831, he waged a terrible and, although often defeated, a virtually successful warfare, against the Russians, while he prosecuted the work of conversion among the tribes of Islam who delayed to acknowledge his mission, and to join in his enmity to the Russians, by the extremities of bloodshed and rapine. His death, after an heroic resistance, was hailed as a triumph by the Russians. They counted on the extinction of the new sect in the defeat of its leader:—whose dead body they carried about the country to prove the imposture of his pretensions. This piece of barbarism produced an effect the reverse of what they expected. The venerable face of the Imam, the attitude in which he had expired, with one hand pointed, as if to heaven, was more impressive to those

who crowded round the body than his fearless enthusiasm had been,—and thousands who till then had held aloof, now joined his followers in venerating him as a prophet. Of this first warrior-priest of Daghestan, Schamyl was the favourite disciple and the most trusted soldier. Kasi-Mullah was not killed until Schamyl had already fallen, as it seemed, under several deadly wounds:—his re-appearance after this bloody scene was but the first of many similar escapes, the report of which sounds like a fable. He did not, however, at once succeed to the dignity of Imam: the office was usurped for more than a year by Hamsad Beg (Bey), whose rapacious and savage treatment of some of the princely families of Daghestan nearly caused a fatal reaction against the new sect, and the destruction of its main support, the Murids. Hamsad Beg performed no action of consequence against the Russians; but expended his rage upon the natives allied with them, or reluctant to obey his mandates. He was assassinated in 1834, by some kinsmen of a princely house whose territories he had usurped after a massacre of its princes. In the affray which took place on this occasion, there perished with him many of the fanatic Murids, who had become odious as instruments of the cruelties of their Imam. On his death, Schamyl was raised to the dignity,—but it was some time before the mischief done by his predecessor was so far repaired as to allow him to act with energy as the prophet of the new doctrine. One of the ill effects of Hamsad Beg's iniquities had been the defection of the Russians of a notable partisan—Hadjî Murad—for many years a fatal thorn in the side of the independent party.* This and other difficulties, among which was the unpopularity of the Murids under Hamsad Beg, were removed by new alliances and precautions, while all that eloquence and skill could perform was applied to restore the credit of the religious system—before Schamyl could hazard a direct attack of the Russian enemy:—who meanwhile had taken advantage of the delay and disunion to gain ground in many parts of Daghestan. From the year 1839, however, the tide rapidly turned; and the result, from that date until the period at which the account closes (1845),—when Woronzow was appointed to command in the Caucasus, with nearly unlimited powers,—has been, that the Russians, in spite of tremendous sacrifices, were constantly losing ground and influence, while Schamyl gained both in equal proportion. The details of the campaigns during this interval are highly interesting; and we regret that conditions of space forbid us to translate some of the exciting episodes recorded by Herr Bodenstedt. We may, however, extract the following account of the Caucasian hero,—whose portrait, we believe, has never before been so fully exhibited to European readers.—

Schamyl is of middle stature; he has light hair, grey eyes, shaded by bushy and well-arched eyebrows,—a nose finely moulded, and a small mouth. His features are distinguished from those of his race by a peculiar fairness of complexion and delicacy of form: the elegant form of his hands and feet is not less remarkable. The apparent stiffness of his arms, when he walks, is a sign of his stern and impenetrable character. His address is thoroughly noble and dignified. Of himself he is completely master; and he asserts a tacit supremacy over all who approach him. An immovable stony calmness, which never forsakes him, even in moments of the utmost danger, broods over his countenance. He passes a sentence of death with the same composure with which he distributes

"the sabre of honour" to his bravest Murids, after a bloody encounter. With traitors or criminals whom he has resolved to destroy he will converse without betraying the least sign of anger or vengeance. He regards himself as a mere instrument in the hands of a higher Being; and holds, according to the Sufi doctrine, that all his thoughts and determinations are immediate inspirations from God. The flow of his speech is as animating and irresistible as his outward appearance is awful and commanding. "He shoots flames from his eyes, and scatters flowers from his lips,"—said Bersek Bey, who sheltered him for some days after the fall of Achulgo,—when Schamyl dwelt for some time among the princes of the Djighetes and Ubiches, for the purpose of inciting the tribes on the Black Sea to rise against the Russians. Schamyl is now (circa 1847) fifty years old, but still full of vigour and strength: it is however said, that he has for some years past suffered from an obstinate disease of the eyes, which is constantly growing worse. He fills the intervals of leisure which his public charges allow him, in reading the Koran, fasting, and prayer. Of late years he has but seldom, and then only on critical occasions, taken a personal share in warlike encounters. In spite of his almost supernatural activity, Schamyl is excessively severe and temperate in his habits. A few hours of sleep are enough for him: at times he will watch for the whole night, without showing the least trace of fatigue on the following day. He eats little, and water is his only beverage. * According to Mohammedan custom, he keeps several wives,—[this contradicts Wagner, who affirms that Schamyl always confined himself to one];—in 1844 he had three, of which his favourite, *Dur Haremen*, (Pearl of the Harem) as she was called, was an Armenian, of exquisite beauty.

Will Russian arms prevail in the end? The following is Herr Bodenstedt's answer; after noticing the arrival of Woronzow, and the expectations raised by his talents, by the immense resources at his command, as well as by such events as the storm of Schamyl's stronghold of Dargo.—

He who believes that the issue of this contest hangs on the destruction of stone fortresses, on the devastation of tracts of forest, has not yet conceived the essential nature of the war in the Caucasus. * * * This is not merely a war of men against men—it is a strife between the mountain and the steppe. The population of the Caucasus may be changed; the air of liberty wafted from its heights will ever remain the same. Invigorated by this atmosphere, even Russian hirelings would grow into men eager for freedom; and among their descendants a new race of heroes would arise, to point their weapons against that servile constitution, to extend which their fathers had once fought, as blind, unquestioning slaves.

To this answer of Herr Bodenstedt's we will add nothing of our own. We are weary with waiting for the events of history such as we would have them.

Correspondence of the Emperor Charles V. and his Ambassadors at the Courts of England and France, from the Original Letters in the Imperial Family Archives at Vienna. Edited by William Bradford, M.A., formerly Chaplain to the British Embassy at Vienna.

[Second Notice.]

WE said last week that we might probably return to this volume, for the purpose of presenting our readers with some extracts from the despatches of Chapuys to the Emperor. Chapuys was Charles's ambassador at London, and his letters are very interesting. The mis-spelling of English names in the French originals is amusing. Thus, the father of Anna Boleyn (created Earl of Wiltshire) is called *Condé de Vulcher*;—*Greennevys* stands for Greenwich:—and so on. While Henry was staying at Greenwich he had many conversations with Chapuys:—from whose account we make the following extract.—

"Sire! Presently afterwards the King passing on his way to Mass, came up directly to me, with the utmost graciousness and courtesy, much more than

on a former occasion, and said, taking me by the sleeve, 'so you have news for me, from my brother the Emperor?' On answering in the affirmative, he enquired the date of the letters, and being informed, he spoke of the great care your Majesty took to inform me of the news. I assured him in reply, that it was one of the principal cares of Your Majesty to make him participate in all the affairs which most nearly concerned you, both in the communications you had with others, and in your own deliberations, and thus to prove the amity, brotherly affection and entire confidence cherished for him by your Majesty on all occasions, persuaded as you were that he in like manner would feel and act towards you,—which he cordially assented to. I then presented the letters of Your Majesty and declared the tenor of my credentials, adding that although your Majesty had been advised that the Pope would himself write to him on the same subject, it was nevertheless suitable to the friendly sentiments which subsisted between you, as well as to the importance of the affair itself, that a special communication of it on Your part should not be wanting. It was true, he told me, that the Pope had written to him, but it was not the less agreeable to learn from Your Majesty the motives and object of this proceeding; and touching the particulars referred to in my said credentials, he had already provided for them, he said, in orders given to his Ambassadors now sent to Your Majesty's court, who were authorised to confer, to treat and conclude on the whole affair. Speaking of the cause and occasion of Your Majesty's journey into Italy, I observed, that in this instance he would surely not be the last to advance so good and holy a work. He replied certainly not, and that he should be very sorry to give cause to any such suspicion. But as it was now time for going to Mass, the King, wishing to discourse with me more at large, put off our further conference till his return. Sire! immediately after Mass the King coming up to me resumed the same subject, asking me if I thought it were possible that he could be backward in such a proceeding? I then laid before him more expressly and more particularly the great necessity there was to resist without further delay this formidable enemy the Turk, which would appear most pressing from extracts of letters which the king of Hungary had addressed to Your Majesty, as well as from the tenor of those which Madame had been pleased to write to me. I told him that I had reason to fear also that the Pope's expected arrival at Bologna on the 5th of this month, would scarcely admit of his ambassadors who were to set out and travel at their ease, being in time for the conference; and therefore it might be expedient I observed, were he to send another power by post to the Ambassadors already with his Holiness, that they might treat on all the subjects in question, should the case require it. He told me that he had given the Ambassadors sent to your Majesty special charge to expedite their journey, and that he would repeat his injunctions on this point. With regard to Your Majesty's expectations from him in this war with the Turk, it was right, he said, to be clearly understood, that he could only do little, but that he was ready to do all in his power. I was unwilling to let this observation on the smallness of his ability pass without remarking, that it could not be inconsiderable as to men, and certainly was very far from being so as to money, with which, it was well known he was provided at least as well as any Prince in Christendom. Were it indeed otherwise, I added, since he was absolute as the Pope, in his dominions, and had moreover such an abundance of rich ecclesiastics, he could hardly plead a want of wealth. He would not be wanting, he rejoined, to assist and promote the enterprise in view as far as the object appeared to him to require his exertions; but Your Majesty, he strongly intimated, as the principal in the affair, the greatest personage, and the most powerful, ought to be the conductor and leader of the way to others, and the more effectually to accomplish this, ought without delay to make peace with the potentates of Italy. He said that all the success you could gain there, would not add one jot to your greatness or your power, and the more Your Majesty could abstain from wasting means in that quarter which might be employed on a much greater and fitter object elsewhere, the more would it redound to Your Majesty's honour, praise, and

* It is worth noting,—as characteristic of Russian mischievousness and of its consequences,—that this chieftain, after being a devoted soldier of the Emperor for seven years, was galled by the ill treatment of his officers into deserting the service; made the offer of his sword to Schamyl, against whom he had fought with the utmost animosity; was heartily welcomed by that prudent leader; and became one of his principal lieutenants.

reputation in the face of all the world. It was not, he said, out of any favour or affection towards the Italian powers, to whom he was bound by no tie or obligation, but out of a sense of duty to Your Majesty, that he made this remark, for whose exaltation and glory he was always anxious. Not that he presumed to offer advice to Your Majesty, he continued, who was not only provided with a store of faithful counsellors, but who was yourself greatly distinguished for your prudence. Your Majesty, I assured him, had never ceased to use your best efforts for bringing about a safe peace, union, and tranquillity in Italy, and that this was one of the motives of the present journey, as I had before observed. I told him that the parties with whom you had to deal were so difficult to bring to reason, having always some reserved point in their proposals, that caution in proceeding with them was, so to speak, no less necessary than with the Turks, and consequently that their very offers of amity were not immediately to be acceded to, much to the discomfiture of Your Majesty; as might be seen in the case of the Duke Francisco Sforza."

Chapuy's thus describes Henry's treatment of Queen Katharine:—prefacing it by referring to Fisher, Bishop of Rochester.

"Sire,—Since my last letters, the Bishop of Rochester urged by his care for the King's conscience, for the good of the country, the benefit of the Queen, and his own respect for truth, has finished revising and correcting the book which he lately wrote, and which I sent to Your Majesty. He has also written another, which the Queen has directed me to forward immediately by the present courier, in order that the persons deputed by Your Majesty to support her rights, may have leisure to examine it thoroughly, before the arrival of those who are about to oppose them on the King's part. The said Bishop has entreated the Queen to do so, although he greatly fears being known to be the author of this last work, as the said Queen has informed Your Majesty. His great learning, and the pains he has taken in compiling these works, will be seen in the works themselves, and cannot fail to add great weight to his opinion. His good and pious life, well known at Rome and elsewhere, and his being a subject of the said King's, will also prove, that there need be no suspicion of unfair dealing from him, as there is from many who advocate the King's cause. Sire, the treatment of the Queen continues as bad, I might even say worse than ever. The King absents himself from her as much as possible, and is always here with the lady, whilst the Queen is at Richmond. He has never been so long without visiting her as now, but states as an excuse, that a death from the plague has taken place near her residence. He has also resumed his attempts to persuade her to become a nun; this, however, is only lost time, for the Queen will never condescend to such a step. The continued trouble and annoyance which she undergoes, constrain her to persevere in importuning Your Majesty, both by her own letters and by mine; nor will she cease to do so, until her suit is brought to a final conclusion, which she trusts it will be before Your Majesty leaves Italy."

The divorce of Henry is thus referred to.—

"Eight days ago, the Dean of the Chapel, as King's attorney in this cause, appeared officially before the Archbishop of Canterbury's chancellor, and presented him with eight documents, which he required should be put into an authentic, juridical, and probative form. These were the decisions of the Universities respecting this matter of the divorce; whereof two were from Paris, one from the theological faculty, and one from the Canonists; the others from the Universities of Toulouse, Orleans, Burgos, Bologna, Padua, and Pavia. I think it more likely that they will publish these documents rather than any book, since they cannot be so easily answered, and the people will rely on their authority with more confidence. In case they do so, the best remedy would be, to get the attestation of those votes which were in favour of the Queen in Paris, and to publish the opinions of such Universities as decided against the King. Also, to circulate any of the best books which can be found, as was done in Spain with the Bishop of Rochester's. Some people thought that the good bishop would be annoyed about it, for fear of the King's displeasure; but, see-

ing that it had been done without his own knowledge, he has proved perfectly indifferent. I therefore conclude that he will not be displeased if the two books which he has written since are printed also, and I have commissioned M. May to get them done. It would be well to have several copies of them here, to be distributed as the case may require, at the opening of the said Parliament. Sire, within the last few days a present of poultry has been sent to the Queen by the Duchess of Norfolk, and with it an orange, in which was inclosed a letter from Gregory Cassal, which I deem proper to send to your Majesty. The Queen thinks that the Duchess sent her this present of her own accord, and out of the love she bears her, but I fear it was done with the knowledge of her husband; at all events, this seems to open a way for the Queen to communicate secretly with her more easily. Eight days ago the King ordered the Cardinal to be brought here; on hearing which the said Cardinal abstained from food for several days. It is said that he hoped rather to end his life in this manner than in a more ignominious and dishonourable one, of which he had some fears; and in consequence of this abstinence he has been taken ill on the road and is not yet arrived. They say, also, that a lodging is prepared for him in the Tower, in the same part that the Duke of Buckingham occupied; many reasons are assigned for his arrest, but they are all mere conjectures."

One of the most valuable portions of this volume is Navagiero's account of the court of Charles.—

"The Emperor is now forty-six years of age. He is a prince who amidst all his greatness and victories has retained a most humble and modest demeanour. He appears to be very studious of religion, and wishes by his example to excite the fervour of divine worship in his court; so that in order to acquire his favour there is no surer method than propriety of conduct, and the profession of sincere Christianity. His court is more quiet and modest than I can describe; without any appearance of vice, and perfectly well ordered. In his audiences, especially towards persons in official situations, he is extremely patient, and answers everything in detail; but seldom or never comes to an immediate resolution on any subject. He always refers the matter, whether it be small or great, to Monsr. de Granvelle; and after consulting with him he resolves on the course he has to take, but always slowly, for such is his nature. Some people find fault with this, and call him irresolute and tardy; whilst others praise him for caution and discretion. With regard to private audiences, he used to be more diligent than he now is; but even now he generally has two or three every day after dinner. These private audiences are generally left to his ministers; and they being few, and the affairs many, no one can come to court for any matter, whether of importance or otherwise, without being detained much longer than is agreeable to them. The Emperor dines in public almost always at the same hour—namely, twelve o'clock at noon. On first rising in the morning, which he does very late, he attends a private mass, said to be for the soul of the late Empress. Then, after having got over a few audiences, he proceeds to a public mass in the chapel, and immediately afterwards to dinner. So that it has become a proverb at court; 'Dalla messa alla mensa,' (from the mass to the mess). The Emperor eats a great deal; perhaps more than is good for his health, considering his constitution and habits of exercise. And he eats a kind of food which produces gross and vicious humours, whence arise the two indispositions which torment him; namely, the gout and the asthma. He tries to mitigate these disorders by partial fasts in the evening, but the physicians say it would be better if he were to divide the nourishment of the day into two regular meals. When his Majesty is well he thinks he never can be ill, and takes very little notice of the advice of his physician; but the moment he is ill again, he will do anything towards his recovery. He is liberal in some things, such as recompensing those who have served him in the field, and those for whom he has any particular regard; but even in this he proceeds slowly. In his dress, his table, furniture and equipages, and the chase, he affects rather the state of a moderate prince, than of a great emperor. Although not by nature inclined to do so, his Majesty is constrained to dispense

gifts on a very large scale; for all the income of the three orders in Spain, which are extremely rich, must of necessity be distributed by the Emperor, as also the many benefices and bishoprics of Spain and his other dominions. It is plain that he proceeds very cautiously in these matters, and gives away with much discrimination; having respect only to the good character and virtuous conduct of those to whom they are given; and on the subject of these bishoprics, His Majesty generally acts by the advice and opinion of his confessor, a Spanish monk of the order of St. Domenick. The Emperor professes to keep his word, to love peace, and to have no desire for war, unless provoked to it. He is consistent in keeping up the dignity of those whom he has once made great; and whenever they get into difficulties he trusts rather to his own judgment in their case than to what is said of them by others. He is a prince who will listen to all, and is willing to place the utmost confidence in his friends, but chooses to have always the casting voice himself; and when once persuaded in his own mind, it is rare indeed that any argument will change his opinion. His recreations consist chiefly in following the chase; sometimes accompanied by a few attendants, and sometimes quite alone, with an arquebus in his hand. He is much pleased with a dwarf given to him by His Highness the King of Poland, which dwarf is very well made and quick witted. The Emperor sometimes plays with him, and he seems to afford him infinite amusement. There is also a jester lately come from Spain who makes His Majesty laugh, and causes a deal of merriment at Court. His name is Perico, and in order to please the Emperor, whenever Philip his son is named, he calls him *Sr di Toda*. And now, though I might enlarge much more upon the nature, habits and virtues of the Emperor, I will only remark as a brief summary, that from all I have seen in my time and from what others who frequent his Court are obliged to confess, there does not exist in these days a more virtuous prince or one who sets a better example to all men than His Majesty Charles V.

"The Emperor's body-guard consists of two hundred halberdiers; one-half of whom are Spanish, and the other half German; and of one hundred archers, who receive more than twice as much pay as the former. His household is divided into three principal departments. The first is under the direction of the 'Sommelier du corps' (King's Butler, or Comptroller of the Household), who now performs the duty formerly devolving on the Grand Chamberlain, for since the death of Monsr. de Nassau, the Emperor has not chosen to appoint any one in his place. The second department is under the 'Maggiordomo Maggior' (Chief Majordomo, or Master of the Household), and the third under the 'Gran Scudier' (Master of the Horse). The first of these appointments is now held by Monsr. de Rice, a Burgundian, and in his absence by the eldest of the Gentlemen of the Chamber (il 'Camerier piu vecchio'). Under his orders are all those whose duty or privilege it is to enter the private apartments, and to whose care the guard of the Sovereign's person is committed; such as the Gentlemen of the bed-chamber, the household servants, and the medical men and other officials who are concerned in the preservation of human life. As soon as the Emperor leaves his own apartment, the charge of guarding his person devolves upon the Chief Majordomo, the Duke of Alva. Under him are two other Majordomos. One of them is a Piedmontese, called Monfalconeto, and the other is a Spaniard, named Giovan Manzi Guedilara, who is brother to the Duke de Nagara. Under their orders are all the gentlemen of the kitchen and of the household, who are occupied with the arrangements of the Emperor's table, and the necessary household expenditure. There is a stated number of these attendants, but it sometimes varies at the Emperor's pleasure. They all attend His Majesty in time of peace and of war, some with two, some with four, and some with six horses. During a campaign they are embodied into what is called the Squadron of His Majesty's Household. As soon as the Emperor puts his foot into the stirrup, the charge of guarding his person is transferred to the Master of the Horse, the Count de Bresse. Under his command are all the horsemen and pages of His Majesty; and the arms and every-

"† St. Jago, Calatrava, and Alcantara."

thing pertaining to war are in his keeping. I have been told by one who manages the Emperor's household expenditure, including his private chapel, music and the chase, that it amounts to no less than 250,000 ducats a year; which payments are now made out of the Spanish monies when the Court is in Spain, and out of the Flemish ones when it is in Flanders. He also told me, that the plan of distributing the several offices as above referred to, and the salaries of the various officials, are entirely founded on the household arrangements of the Dukes of Burgundy."

We trust that the editor of this curious volume will favour the public with more contributions to history. His present work will be valuable as a companion to Robertson.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

Hearts in Mortmain, and Cornelia.—Not only the subject, but also the style, of these two stories has recalled to us a miscellany little read at the time of its appearance, but not forgotten by the few who read it,—we mean, 'The Gossip's Week,' by the late Mrs. Boddington.—Those tales were remarkable for a mixture of fervour of emotion and elegance of diction, far removed from the tone of hack-authorship,—so are these. Those were passionate and picturesque without being powerful,—so are these. Neither of the works compared can, however, claim a very high rank among fictions. By many these two tales will be found super-sentimental and unnatural,—by all they must be felt to want clearness of narration and closeness of structure. Yet, by all they will be acknowledged as in some important points superior to the average manufactures showered forth on the counters of the circulating libraries.—'Hearts in Mortmain' and 'Cornelia' may both be described as tales of "delicate distress." In both, the love of the generous and the happiness of the young are harassed and intercepted by something akin to the fate of ancient tragedy,—by doom and denunciation referable to the crimes and sorrows of a former generation. In the first story, Ethel and Edward must not marry each other, because of . . . we will not describe the cause;—accordingly, they marry elsewhere,—and long-drawn misunderstandings and pains and distresses ensue, ending in a catastrophe the nature of which (though not its precise victims) must have been from the very first foreseen.—In 'Cornelia,' the orphaned and deserted child who is handed over from one kind protector to another, is thrown when a girl into the way of the very being against whom her benefactress is the most implacable,—drawn towards him by a mysterious sympathy,—and only at the very last moment allowed to learn what he is to her and what she is to him. But while we advert to the cast of incident of both tales as romantic rather than real, in neither is the sentiment morbid rather than just or generous. The writer obviously prefers to dally with sorrow,—but never for a passing word's length tampers with impunity. This distinction implies no ordinary praise, the argument of these two tales considered,—and would justify us (had we no other reason) for dwelling on them with commendation.

A letter addressed to R. M. Milnes, Esq., M.P., on the Condition and Unsafe State of Ancient Parochial Registers in England and the Colonies. By W. D. Bruce.—The urgency of the facts stated by Mr. Bruce cannot be denied; and in any country where the importance of such matters is clearly understood, it would furnish an unanswerable argument for an immediate measure of relief. The act for the establishment of a general system of registration has provided for the future,—but the past is left entirely to take care of itself. As Mr. Bruce shows, documents of the highest legal importance,—and many of great historical interest,—are daily lost beyond all power of redemption.—We recommend our readers to peruse this letter.

A Grammar of the English Language for the use of Commercial Schools. By R. G. Latham, M.D.—Dr. Latham is rendering good service to education by publishing these compendious practical introductions to his great philosophical treatise on the English language. The plan on which the present is constructed is excellent. It begins with a brief but practically sufficient history of the language. Then

follows an account of the sounds and letters, the former being rightly discussed first, so that the pupil is enabled to see clearly the intimate connexion between the changes of the latter and the laws of the former. Another excellence peculiar to this work is, that it explains the structure of propositions before describing the parts of speech, which are consequently defined much better than in ordinary grammars. Declension and inflection are made to illustrate the principles previously laid down with regard to sounds and letters. The syntax and prosody, which form the conclusion, are remarkable for clearness, conciseness, and sufficiency of sound information.—We are not sure, however, whether the author's arrangement of what are called irregular verbs is as good as that in Allen and Cornwell's Grammar.

Histoire de France. Par A. R. Montarais et S. A. Mayeur.—We have here a history of France from the earliest times to the end of last year, written for educational purposes, and adopted by the University of France for the use of elementary schools. It would have been both more interesting and instructive if the authors had entered more into detail,—particularly in treating of the period that has elapsed since the commencement of the great Revolution. As they themselves acknowledge, it now has the air rather of a dry chronological arrangement of events than of a pleasing narrative. While we utterly repudiate the practice of sacrificing reality for the sake of "making things pleasant," and scorn the notion that young people are only to be expected to learn what they like and as they like,—we think it desirable to present information to them in the most attractive form that can be adopted without impairing its worth. At the same time, we do not wish to be understood as at all disapproving of this work. On the contrary, we consider it a useful reading-book for schools. The list of inventions, &c., chronologically arranged at the end of each reign, and the notes to assist translation appended to the whole, greatly enhance its value.

Impediments to the Improvement of Ireland. By W. N. Hancock.—This is a cheap reprint of a series of lectures delivered by Mr. Hancock, Professor of Political Economy in the University of Dublin, on the subject indicated. The success which M. Bastiat's little work called '*Sophismes Economiques*' has met with in England seems to have suggested the publication. Mr. Hancock arrives at the conclusion, that the evils which afflict the sister country are the result of bad legislation, and not of faults inherent in the Celtic race. This doctrine, whether true or not, is the more hopeful and consolatory,—as it is easier to amend bad laws than to root out natural defects of character. The work cannot fail to be useful as pointing out in a sober way, as becomes a man speaking in the name of science, practical remedies for the existing evils.

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN.

Aunt Atta: a Tale for little Nephews and Nieces. By the Author of 'Tales of Kirkbeck.'—This is a pleasant story for children, of children—not altogether innocent of being too babyish in some of its details, and liable (though in moderate degree) to the objection which we must never cease to urge so often as we encounter the fault. Here, every character (save one, the presiding spirit, who can do no wrong) is laid on the table for anatomical analysis. Here, nothing is implied as too sacred, nothing admitted as too secret, to be bared to view. It is like being compelled to pass a day in a confessional. Now, all theology apart, this spirit in fiction makes but fatiguing art. With the solitary exception of Richardson perhaps, by no author have all the complexities of one human heart and character been exhibited with any success. We are able to guess, speculate, and doubt, with regard to *Macbeth*, *Leona*, *Hamlet* (as we do about human beings)—hence the hold of startling reality which they retain upon us. The same principle which applies to the pleasure of the great applies to the profit of the small. Children can hardly read these minute accounts of naughty children, and of what made them good, without danger of encouraging censoriousness in them, or of their receiving some impressions of human infallibility by fiat of which these *peccadilloes* are righted. With every desire to cherish a sense of justice and

to keep alive a spirit of reverence, we cannot think that the expedients now so perpetually resorted to for those purposes are the best. But 'Aunt Atta' will with many be popular for the very reasons which have called from us yet once again the above protest.

The Amyotts' Home; or, Life in Childhood.—An unaffected, natural little book, narrating childish amusements and troubles, "accidents and offences," with a truthfulness and a freshness of manner which will attract childish readers.

We cannot bestow the same sort of praise on *Oceanus; or, a Peaceful Progress o'er the Unpathed Sea.* By Mrs. David Osborne.—The above title of itself may and probably will convey to most readers a certainty that, whatever be the matter of the book, its manner is somewhat too elaborate and stilted. There is much closely-packed information about sea-wonders, and the curiosities on the shores of the sea:—and hence, as a piece of florid geography '*Oceanus*' merits its praise. But a simpler fashion of writing would have been more pleasing and effective—since, in spite of their charity with much that taste teaches them to reject in after life, instincts for style begin to stir at an early age in children, and it is as well that these should be rightly developed.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Arthur's (T. S.) *The Lady at Home*, 32mo, 2d. swd.
Atlas of Scotland, 25 coloured maps, imp. folio, 6s. half mor.
Bell's (J. C.) *The Modern Reader and Speaker*, 2nd ed., 12mo, 3s. 6d.
Bell's (J. C.) *The Happy Mule*, Memoir, by C. E. 12mo, 1s. 6d. cl.
Brown's (J.) *Course of Drawing for Primary Schools*, Part I. 6s.
Bushman's (J. S.) *Cholera, and its Cure*, 8vo, 3s. 6d. cl.
Chambers's *Papers for the People*, Vol. III, post 8vo, 1s. 6d. bds.
Chambers's *Lib. for Young*, Vol. XVI.—*Duty and Affection*, 1s.
Cook's (L.) *The Agricultural Referee*, royal 8vo, 1s. 5s. cl.
Cochrane's (A. B.) *Young Italy*, post 8vo, 10s. 6d. cl.
Donaldson's *Buildings Green*, new ed., 12mo, 3s. 6d. cl.
Every-Day Things, or Useful Knowledge, by a Lady, 12mo, 2s.
Four Gospels Combined, 12mo, 3s. 6d. cl., 6s. roan.
Herodotus, by Negris, 12mo, 4s., with notes, 4s. 6d. cl.
Herodotus's *Clio*, by Negris, 12mo, 4s., with notes, 1s. swd.
Herodotus's *Clio*, with notes by Wheeler, 12mo, 1s. 2d. swd.
Jobert's (A. C. G.) *Art of Questioning*, in French, 2nd ed., 3s. 6d. cl.
Kelly's (J. J.) *Discourses on Holy Scripture*, 8vo, 1s. 6d. cl.
Lord of the Forest and his Vassals, an Allegory, 3s. 6d. cl.
Muzey's (Rev. A. B.) *The Christian Parent*, 12mo, 3s. 6d. cl.
Oughton's (D.) *Mechanism of the Heavens*, 8vo, 5s. cl.
Pindar's Works, edited by Negris, 8s. 4s. 6d. cl.
Peel's (Sir R.) *Life and Times*, by Dr. W. C. Taylor, 3 vols, 31s. 6d.
Petitcoat Government, by Mrs. Trollope, 3 vols, post 8vo, 11s. 6d.
Portugal Works of Moschus, 3 vols, 6s. 6d. cl.
Railway Library, August, 'James's Dark Scenes,' 12mo, 1s. 6d.
Ruins of Historic and Sacred Lands, 6s. 3s. 6d. cl.
Stacy's (B.) *Speculum Regium, or Pastoral Incidents*, 12mo, 3s. cl.
Sigourney's (Mrs. L. H.) *Poetical Works*, new ed., 24mo, 3s. 6d. gilt.
Stewart's (Dugald) *Elements of Philosophy*, new ed., 8vo, 7s. cl.
Tabbot and Vernon, a Novel, 3 vols, post 8vo, 11s. 6d. cl.
Tomlinson (E.) *On Warming and Ventilation*, 12mo, 2s. cl. (Wale.)
Vessels and Voyages, by Uncle George, 8s. 3s. 6d. cl.
Westman's Delegate Takings, by some of them, 12mo, 2s. cl.
White's (W.) *History and Directory of Devonshire*, 12mo, 12s. 6d.
Wordsworth's (W.) *The Prelude*, a Poem, 8vo, 14s. 1s. cl.
Xenophon, by Negris, 1s. 6d. with notes, 2s. cl.

KEW GARDENS.

Few places accessible to the inhabitants of the metropolis are more worthy of a visit than the Royal Gardens at Kew. Although these gardens have been celebrated as containing a vast number of botanical treasures for upwards of a century, it is only within the last ten years that they have attracted general attention,—or been in a condition to challenge, as they now may, any similar establishment in Europe. We have from time to time noticed in our columns the improvements that have been made here since the appointment of the present director, Sir W. Jackson Hooker, in 1841; and we propose now to make a few remarks on the present condition of the gardens and on their more conspicuous attractions.

The most remarkable feature to those who have not visited the gardens for three or four years past, will be the new Palm house or Palm stove. This is an elegant building, formed entirely of glass in an iron framework, consisting of a centre and two wings. The centre is 100 feet wide and 66 feet in height, and the wings are 50 feet wide and 30 feet high. This large building, occupying an area of 362 feet in length, is heated by means of hot-water pipes and tanks,—the water in which is heated in furnaces upwards of 400 feet from the house. This distance has been given for the purpose of preventing the erection of unsightly chimneys near so handsome a structure. The shaft employed for conducting the smoke from the furnaces is so constructed as to form an ornamental object in the gardens. This grand Conservatory, far exceeding in size any other of the kind now existing, was completed in 1848. Up to this time its success has greatly exceeded the most sanguine hopes of its

projectors; and a finer collection of plants, or a collection in a better state of preservation, was probably never got together than may now be seen within its walls of glass. The most conspicuous of the plants in this house are, as the name implies, several species of Palms. Amongst these, the *Cocos plumosa*, the *Cocos coronata*, and the *Plectocomia elongata* are the loftiest and most conspicuous. Under the broad leaves of these graceful and stately palms, a number of others more familiar to our English eyes find shelter:—such as the Cocoa-nut palm (*Cocos nucifera*), the Ivory-nut palm (*Phytelephas macrocarpa*), the West Indian Fan palm (*Sabal umbraculifera*), the Jagary palm of Ceylon (*Caryota urens*), the Date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*), the Dwarf palm of Europe (*Chamaerops humilis*), the Oil palm of Africa (*Elaeis Guineensis*), and many others less known. Such a display of palms could not be met with in any one district of the tropics themselves; and we have heard it remarked by a traveller, that no opportunity is afforded in tropical forests of viewing these plants in so perfect a condition as they are found in the stove-house at Kew.

To those who look for rarities, the next most attractive group of plants in this large house will be the Tree Ferns. Of these very rare plants there are several specimens now in full leaf in the collection. Amongst the foliar forms of the vegetable kingdom there are none which exceed in variety and elegance the fronds of these plants. Independently of their intrinsic beauty, these tree ferns have great interest as the representatives of the gigantic plants which were the most conspicuous feature of the forests out of which our coal deposits were formed.

As next to these in interest the botanist will turn to the very fine collection of Cycads, in the same house. These plants have a claim on the attention of the geologist as being allied to those which are found in the formations subsequent to the coal deposits. There are several species, belonging to the genera *Cycas*, *Zamia*, and *Encephalartos*. A specimen of *Cycas revoluta* is now unfolding its flowers,—and affords a good opportunity of studying the peculiar inflorescence of these plants. We can do no more in addition to the above particulars than state generally, that in this house almost all the plants yielding the fruits, juices, oils, or other secretions which we obtain from tropical climates are to be found. Here are the plants bearing cinnamon, cloves, camphor, pepper, tapioca, coffee, tea, chocolate, sugar, arrow-root, tamarinds, mangoes, and bread-fruit. Here, also, are the Indian-rubber, cotton, gutta-percha, and indigo plants. Pitcher-plants, convolvuluses, passion-flowers, and aristolochias climb up the sides of the building and ornament the balustrades and railings.

The Palm house, though the largest, is only one of twenty similar buildings here devoted to the rearing and culture of plants. One of these houses, formerly employed for the cultivation of Orchids, is now—under the name of the Tropical Aquarium, or Victoria House—devoted to the growth of the Victoria Water-Lily. This queen of the waters, it will be recollected, was discovered by Sir Robert Schomburgk, in 1837, in Guiana; and although many attempts have been made to grow it in this country, they have failed till within these last few months. Plants of it are now to be seen in flower at Syon, Chatsworth, and Kew. In the Kew Gardens the plants are not yet so healthy as in the two former; but every day is improving the appearance of the Kew plants,—and their present condition is quite enough to suggest what must be the size and beauty of this elegant aquatic in its native waters. The cause of the failures in the attempt to cultivate this plant appears to have been the use of hard water. Even the water of the Thames—which is that now used at Kew—seems to contain too much saline matter; and the better success of the culture at Syon and at Chatsworth appears to have depended on the employment of soft water,—for the use of which there is no provision at Kew.

All the other houses in these gardens contain plants more or less worthy of inspection; but at this time of the year the Australian house is par-

ticularly worth a visit,—containing, as it does, a unique collection of the flowering plants of that new world. Here will be found the species of *Acacia* and *Epacris* in almost every imaginable form,—with a large number of other plants bearing gaily-coloured or sweetly-scented flowers. To complete the visitor's idea of the vegetation of New Holland, the Araucarias and Eucalyptuses—which are now, as half-hardy plants, placed in various parts of the gardens—should be inspected; as well as the collection of Proteaceous plants now in the conservatory,—removed from Buckingham Palace by King William the Fourth.

As other objects of general interest in these gardens we may mention the collections of the Cactaceae, the Orchidaceae, the Grasses, and the New Zealand plants. In the open grounds are some very fine trees demanding attention:—amongst others, a magnificent specimen of the *Araucaria imbricata*, and very fine specimens of the Turkey oak (*Quercus cerris*), the common elm, lime, chestnut, and of various species of coniferous trees. The beds of British plants arranged according to the natural orders cannot fail to interest those who cultivate our native Botany.

Of the many objects worth notice which these Gardens contain none perhaps is more deserving of encouragement than the Museum. The establishment of this Museum is a novelty not only in the Gardens, but also in this country. Strange to say, though of all people in the world the English are most dependent on the produce of the vegetable kingdom for the materials of their manufacture, they have thought less perhaps than any other nation of improving and developing their industry by the study of plants and the knowledge of what other nations are doing with the same materials. Such a collection of the produce of plants used in arts, manufactures and medicine as is now forming at Kew ought long since to have found existence in our national Museum in Great Russell Street:—and now, this collection at Kew should, as we have before suggested, be removed to London. There is no necessary connexion between the dried specimens of a museum and the living plants of a garden. Removed or not, however, this collection reflects great credit on the Director and Curator of the Gardens at Kew. In an incredibly short space of time they have brought together a vast number of specimens consisting of the raw materials and manufactured produce of the vegetable kingdom. Amongst the substances obtained from plants used in the arts, there is here a very complete series of the stages of manufacture and the various applications of caoutchouc and gutta percha. Here at one view is gained a knowledge not only of these substances in their

raw and manufactured condition, but of the various stages of the process,—as also a history of their various applications. A like series of specimens illustrates the manufacture of flax; and steps are in progress for the same thing with respect to hemp and cotton.—A recent arrival of interest is, a complete set of implements, with a series of illustrative drawings, for the growth and preparation of opium, in Patna, in the East Indies,—sent over by Dr. J. Hooker. There are here also specimens of opium from Turkey, the East Indies, and other parts of the world.—This department of the museum is likely to be of great interest as throwing light on the preparation of important medicines, and directing attention to the best kinds and the best modes of preparing them.

The specimens illustrative of vegetable substances used as food are numerous and instructive. Thus, there are—a series illustrative of the varieties of, and the modes of preparing, tea,—specimens of the various kinds of coffee,—of the Paraguay tea,—of chocolate and cocoa,—of various kinds of sugar,—of shea butter,—and many other things.

Another useful department here is, the collection of woods used in cabinet-making and other arts. By the side of these is a series of specimens exhibiting the diseases to which wood is subjected, and the injuries from bad pruning, from the attacks of insects, &c.—The fruits of plants are often their most characteristic organs. These are not unfortunately badly preserved, or not preserved at all, in our herbaria,—and a museum is a fitting place for their collection and exhibition. Already, in this establishment there are a large number of fruits preserved both dry and moist. Amongst the dry are, collections of the fruits of the Coniferae, the Palms, and the proteaceae. This department may be made very valuable to the botanist.

There are also to be seen here a few wax models of plants. The art of the wax modeller might be of great use in such an institution as this for securing and rendering permanent forms that cannot well be transferred to paper or accurately described. In such subjects the museum at the Jardin des Plantes is very superior to anything in England; but we may now expect to find every deficiency supplied. As no country in the world has so great an opportunity as our own, of heaping together vegetable treasures, we hope soon to see the Museum at Kew unequalled for the extent and variety of its objects.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS IN LONDON DURING THE LAST TEN YEARS.

THE Registrar General has recently published a series of vital statistics returns; from which we have compiled the following interesting table.—

| | 1840. | 1841. | 1842. | 1843. | 1844. | 1845. | 1846. | 1847. | 1848. | 1849. |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| BIRTHS. | Males..... | 28,412 | 29,298 | 30,946 | 31,172 | 32,949 | 33,625 | 35,318 | 34,736 | 36,339 |
| | Females..... | 27,351 | 28,044 | 29,294 | 29,925 | 31,380 | 32,259 | 34,564 | 33,595 | 34,926 |
| DEATHS. | Males..... | 23,851 | 22,995 | 22,841 | 24,961 | 25,729 | 24,496 | 24,941 | 26,347 | 29,329 |
| | Females..... | 22,430 | 22,288 | 22,430 | 23,613 | 24,694 | 23,836 | 24,148 | 26,095 | 28,299 |
| Excess of Births over Deaths | | 9,462 | 12,059 | 14,969 | 12,523 | 13,906 | 17,552 | 20,793 | 7,889 | 13,637 |

By this table it appears that the average annual number of births during the last ten years in the metropolis has been 64,679, and the average annual number of deaths 51,975; making an annual average excess of births over deaths of 12,704. The estimated population of the metropolis at the close of 1849, was 2,206,076. The great mortality during the past year arose from cholera,—the deaths from which far exceeded those of previous years. The numbers stand thus:—1840, 60; 1841, 28; 1842, 118; 1843, 85; 1844, 65; 1845, 43; 1846, 228; 1847, 117; 1848, 652; 1849, 14,125. The mortality during the past year was thus divided in the different districts: West district, 9,388; North, 11,053; Central, 10,846; East, 14,847; South, 22,298. The mean temperature during the last ten years was as follows: 1840, 47° 8'; 1841, 48° 7'; 1842, 49° 6'; 1843, 49° 4'; 1844, 48° 6'; 1845, 47° 6'; 1846, 51° 3'; 1847, 49° 1'; 1848, 50° 2'; 1849, 50° 1'.

LIBRARY OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

In common, with all students at this institution, I have to thank you for the remarks which you

have made from time to time on the defects of the present Catalogue, and on the necessity of immediately having a "Finding" or common-name Catalogue completed, to guide authors and readers to the treasures which it contains. Amongst other restrictions by which such students suffer, the rule laid down by the Museum which excludes all books from the Catalogue till after one year from the date of publication, operates very injuriously to them without yielding any advantage to authors and publishers; and I am authorized by the principal publishers to state that the rescinding of this rule would have no injurious effect on them.

My researches at the Library have been chiefly in connexion with the subjects of the discovery of the Coal Fields in the Islands of the Pacific Ocean and the adjacent Continents,—and the capabilities of our colonies to sustain an increase of population, with a view to assisting emigration from densely-populated countries. I have had, therefore, to refer to the journals of missionaries and other residents in those distant countries, and to consult recent works on practical geology.

Amongst not being books, I with the been one of Waghorn published the Admini is the boo three year the Cat With re paration of sure, if the arrival of linker co every cus before the pay a few Catalogue numerate Some of t at the es Library is

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No 11873

Amongst other instances of my disappointment at not being able to refer to some valuable modern books, I may mention that I required in connexion with the extension of steam to Australia—having been one of the first projectors with the late Lieut. Waggon—Stork's 'Survey of Torres Straits,' published some years since under the patronage of the Admiralty. I inserted the title of the work in the book kept in the Library for omissions, &c., three years ago;—but it has never yet appeared in the Catalogue.

With regard to the question of time in the preparation of such a Catalogue as the public want,—surely, if at Lloyd's they can register all the daily arrivals of ships with casualties,—and if every banker contrives to ascertain the "balance" of every customer, however many he may have, before the clerks leave,—Government has but to pay a few clerks to post up the arrears in the Catalogue of this important institution, or to remunerate the present staff for extra attendance. Some of the officers in this department now leave at the early hour of 3 o'clock,—although the Library is open till 7 o'clock.

I am, &c. H. SMITH EVANS.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

The Commissioners for the management of the Industrial Exhibition of 1851 met yesterday, for the purpose of deciding finally on the details of the building plan; and as late as 6 o'clock in the evening came to the resolution that Mr. Paxton's original plan should be adopted, with the addition of transepts and a barrel-roof for these transepts alone. The roof of the longitudinal portion is to be flat, as proposed in the first instance. The transepts will be useful as breaking the monotony of the long straight line of glass:—the keel-shaped roof for the transepts, though more costly than a flat roof, is justifiable by the reason that the additional elevation gained will permit the inclosure of a line of trees which stand about the middle of the space. The building is to be prepared with galleries. The following statistics will convey a notion of the extent of its capacities. "There will be on the ground-floor alone seven miles of tables. There will be 1,200,000 square feet of glass,—24 miles of one description of gutter, and 218 miles of "ash bar;" and in the construction 4,500 tons of iron will be expended. The wooden floor will be arranged with "divisions," so as to allow the dust to fall through. The contract has, we believe, been signed with Messrs. Fox and Henderson, of the Smethwick Works, Birmingham, for the sum of 77,500*l*.

Speaking of the alterations which have been made in this design, we have to repeat the warning which we gave last week. We hope that no more alterations are to be made, and that the design as now fixed is to be handed over to Mr. Cubitt to be promptly carried out. No discretion is, we trust, to be reserved or given. We have before us some fearful examples of the consequences of elasticity in such matters, and of the convenient manner in which the responsibility of these consequences is passed from one to the other in the case of the amazed and baffled public for want of a party to stand directly between them and all interference. The Building Committee have, we know, active imaginations,—which it is dangerous to trust. The slightest discretion reserved might yet generate a "great feature." On the basis of the merest doubt these men would in all probability still build up their dome. They have no assurance and the public no protection against the valenture of their imaginations but in the entire and absolute divestiture of all right to intermeddle. We have been long accustomed to have our comments of this kind read in a sense too spiritual:—let us by all means have some one set over this work whom we can hold fast by the letter.

Among the monuments which are getting up on all sides to Sir Robert Peel, it has been determined by the inhabitants of Tollington and its neighbourhood to erect a column in his honour on the summit of Holcombe Hill. The view from the top of the column,—which is to be accessible by means of

a staircase—will command a panoramic scene of two hundred miles in circumference, embracing a sight of Yorkshire over Blackstone Edge, the Derbyshire hills overlooking Buxton, the Staffordshire range of hills, Cheshire, the Irish Channel, the Cumberland hills, and the watering-places on the Lancashire coast. Holcombe Hill is within a few miles of the birthplace of the late Sir Robert Peel.—A correspondent, in reference to our remarks last week on the waste of means and poverty of thought which in this advanced age of the world builds for all time with such perishable materials as statues, suggests that our design of a more living and intelligent memorial should take the form of a national University for the education of the sons of the middle classes. He justly observes that ours are not the days for copying the forms of ancient Rome as interpreters of the new feelings and aspirations which the Romans never knew; and he adds, that, while the statues which the Romans reared are dispersed and their columns crumbling to decay, their thoughts as embodied in their literature are with us yet, testifying for ever of the great spirits which perished from amongst them but left in this sure and abiding form the legacy of their minds.

The Woods and Forests estimate for a Public Record Office, on the Rolls estate in Chancery Lane, has—we are glad at length to announce—received the approval of the Government; and 30,000*l*. of the 45,000*l*. required has been voted in Parliament during the past week. The architect engaged is Mr. Pennethorne,—to whom we are indebted for the useful building in Piccadilly recently erected for the Museum of Practical Geology. It is to be a classic building, accommodating itself to what Launcelot Brown would have called the *capabilities* of the place, and to the introduction of such portions of the Rolls House (a work of the last century, built by Colin Campbell) as Mr. Pennethorne may think worthy of preservation. We are glad to observe that the Rolls Chapel, with its curious monuments, is to remain intact; and we should not quarrel with Mr. Pennethorne if he could apply one thousand of his 45,000*l*. in doing something, however small, to restore a very interesting little edifice to some of its pristine beauties. We would willingly sacrifice the Rolls House to preserve the Rolls Chapel. The new Record Office will be erected in about three years; and Parliament has shown its sense of the necessity of such a building by voting in advance two-thirds of the sum required. It is calculated, we observe, by Sir Francis Palgrave, that the new office will not only contain the whole of the public records but will be large enough to receive all the additions that we are likely to make to it in the next fifty years. It will relieve the Norman Chapel in the White Tower and the Early English Chapter House at Westminster Abbey from the mass of presses which disfigure those buildings, and really exclude the people from seeing what the public has often expressed a desire to see. The Norman Chapel in the Tower of London is not only the most ancient edifice remaining in London, but it is the best example we have of a Norman Chapel in a place of strength—and is, moreover, a memorable portion of the most celebrated fortress connected with the history of the country. Then, the Chapter House at Westminster—so integral a portion of the whole Abbey—will be a sight for millions when its mural paintings of fourteenth-century work are brought to light and its fine floor of heraldic tiles is no longer boarded over. This 45,000*l*. is a sum well laid out,—on a purpose for which we have contended year after year. The new building will enable Government, moreover, to turn the State Paper Office in St. James's Park to another purpose. Mr. Pennethorne's building will be fire-proof,—that is, no fires will be introduced: Sir Francis Palgrave having discovered, in conjunction with Sir William Hooker, that parchments and papers are best preserved not by artificial heat but by natural ventilation in dry weather. In short, we are to keep our records as Linnaeus kept his Herbarium and as the Duke of Bedford keeps his muniments in London:—the only record office which Sir Francis Palgrave and Mr. Pennethorne inspected at all exhibiting care and insuring preservation among the many which they have had

the opportunity of visiting with a view to the inquiry which they have just completed.

The following is from a Correspondent who dates from Lincoln's Inn, and signs H. G.:—"There cannot, I think, be much doubt that the opinion of the 'competent authorities' who have examined the tomb of Chaucer [*ante*, p. 768] is well founded. I inspected the monument this morning more closely than I had ever done before, and was struck with the difference observable between the workmanship of the tomb itself and that of the canopy which overhangs it. The tomb itself, so far as its mouldering condition permits one to judge, is skillfully wrought, and its date seems to be not long subsequent to Chaucer's death; but the canopy seems to be a copy of one of the earlier part of the reign of Henry the Seventh, accurate enough in its general form, but coarse and clumsy in its details.—But how are we to account for the position of the tomb, which stands, contrary to the universal position of the Christian Church, with the head northwards? Surely it must have been removed from its original site by Nicholas Brigham.—It is a curious coincidence that the tomb of Gower now stands north and south in the transept of St. Mary Overie. It was, if I mistake not, removed from its original position about 20 years ago.

Dr. Macdonald has been appointed to a professorship of Natural History in the University of St. Andrew's. This chair is in the gift of the Marquis of Ailsa, and was formerly occupied by the late Dr. Ferrie as a chair of Civil History. It has, however, been deemed advisable to change the subject; and Dr. Macdonald, who is well known for his devotion to the sciences of natural history, has been appointed, as we have said, to the vacant chair. We should hope from this and other changes that the University of St. Andrew's may recover something of its former importance as an educational institution.

A French paper, the *Presse*, gives some account of experiments made at the house of M. de Girardin with a new telegraphic dictionary, the invention of M. Gonon. Despatches, in French, English, Portuguese, Russian, and Latin, including proper names of men and places, and also figures, were transmitted and translated, says this account, with a rapidity and fidelity alike marvellous, by an officer who knew nothing of any one of the languages used except his own. Dots, commas, accents, and breaks were all in their places. This dictionary of M. Gonon is applicable alike to electric and to aerial telegraphy, to transmissions by night and by day, to maritime and to military telegraphing.—The same paper speaks of the great interest excited in the European capitals by the approaching experiment of submarine telegraphic communication between England and France. The wires, it says, on the English side are deposited and ready for laying down. It is probable that in a very few days the experiment will be complete.

The French papers report the death, at Paris, of M. Mora, the Mexican Minister Plenipotentiary at the Court of St. James's. M. Mora was the author of a History of Mexico and its Revolutions since the establishment of its independence, and editor-in-chief of several journals in Mexico.

Germany has just lost her celebrated Protestant theologian, John Augustus William Neander—first Professor of Theology in the Royal University of Berlin. Neander was born at Göttingen on the 16th of January, 1789,—and was consequently upwards of sixty-one when he died. He was the child of Hebrew parents. He studied at Halle and Göttingen; and at the early age of twenty-three was appointed professor at Heidelberg. Neander has published a great number of works,—among which may be named, 'Memoirs of the History of Christianity and of the Christian Life,' 'A History of St. Bernard and his time,' 'A History of St. Chrysostom and of the origin of the Eastern Church,' the 'Development and Explanation of the various Gnostic Systems,' and a 'History of the Establishment and Government of the Church by the Apostles.'

The annual distribution of the Rewards of the Society of Arts took place on Monday, at the House in John Street, Adelphi:—Lord Colborne,

the Vice-President, being in the chair, in the place of Prince Albert, whom the death of the Duke of Cambridge prevented from presiding. The Address of the Council exhibited the Society as in a more flourishing condition than it has been for years,—250 new members having joined during the past twelve months. The Exhibition of Ancient and Medieval Art has, it was stated, been highly successful. That the articles and essays for which rewards were distributed were not on the present occasion equal in interest to those of last year, was explained by the fact that inventors and manufacturers are reserving themselves for the Great Exhibition of 1851. Before presenting the medals, two silver cups, executed by Messrs. Garrard after the design of Mr. Macleise, were presented to Dr. Paris, President of the Royal College of Physicians, and Mr. J. S. M. Fonblanque,—the two cups being in place of a single one which, in accordance with the will of the late Dr. Swiney, was last year given to these gentlemen as joint authors of the best treatise on Medical Jurisprudence.—The medals were then distributed in the following order.—

In the Section of Trade and Manufactures: To Messrs. Rufford & Finch, for their Porcelain Bath in one piece,—the Gold Isis Medal.—*In the Section of Fine Arts and Manufactures:* To Messrs. Campbell, Harrison & Lloyd, for their Figured Silks for Dresses,—Messrs. J. Crossly & Sons, for their Printed Carpets,—Messrs. E. Henry & Sons, for their Embroidered Garment Fabrics,—Messrs. Keith & Co., for their Silk Furniture Damasks,—Messrs. Lambert & Bury, for their Tamboured Lace,—Messrs. Hecks & Hickling, for their Machine-made Lace,—and Messrs. Swainson & Denys, for their Sweet-Pea Chintz,—the Gold Isis Medal. To Messrs. G. Baehus & Sons, for their Specimens of Table Glass,—Messrs. Cornell, Lyle & Webster, for their Seven-inch Ribbands,—Messrs. Keith, Shobridge & Co., for their Printed Shawls,—J. Coulson, for his Damasks,—Miss Stanley, for her Norwich Hand-made Lace,—Messrs. Stone & Kemp, for their Silk Damasks,—T. W. Wallis, for his Specimens of Carving in Wood,—E. Webb, for his Horsehair Damasks,—and Messrs. J. & W. Wilson, for their Carpets,—the Silver Medal. To Messrs. R. S. Cox & Co., for their Seven-inch Ribbands,—and G. Cook, for his Specimens of Carving in Wood,—the Isis Silver Medal. To Mrs. Temple, for her Flowers in Wax Composition,—the Manager of the School of St. Clair, for Specimens of Knitting executed by the Children under her charge,—J. M. Levison, for his Introduction and application of New Zealand Woods for Furniture,—and W. Potts, for his Ornamental Metal Work,—the Honorary Testimonial.—*In the Section of Chemistry:* To Messrs. McNair & Co., for their Coating for Electric Telegraph Wires,—the Silver Medal.—*In the Section of Mechanics:* To Henry Bessemers, for his Sugar-Cane Press,—and C. W. Siemens, C. E., for his Regenerative Condenser,—the Gold Medal. To G. Eaton, for his Plan for preventing Oscillation in Locomotives,—and W. H. Smith, C. E., for his Flexible Breakwater and Lighthouses,—the Gold Isis Medal. To A. F. G. Claudet, for his Glass-cutting Machines,—T. Syson Cundy, for his Pyro-Pneumatic Stove,—J. Murray, for his Investigation of the Action of the Crank,—D. McKenzie, for his Reel for Jacquard Looms,—W. Melvine, for his Aphonic Clock,—W. Pole, for his Investigation of the Action of the Crank,—and C. J. Varley, for his Improved Air-pump,—the Silver Medal. To Francis F. Colegrave, for his Spring Saddle-Girth,—the Silver Isis Medal. To Goodhous, Clinton & Co., for their Method of Constructing Metallic Attachments to Mineral Substances,—J. E. McDonnell, for his Vibrating Archimedean Drill-Stock,—and J. Veitch, M.D., R.N., for his Medico-Chirurgical Ambulance,—the Honorary Testimonial.

The Council have materially altered the scheme of their Prize List for the ensuing session;—the intimate connexion of the Society of Arts with the Exhibition of the Works of Industry of All Nations in 1851 having appeared to them, as they say, to render altogether superfluous any attempt on the part of the Society to pursue its ordinary course for the encouragement of arts, manufactures, and commerce by the offer of its usual prizes for the session of 1850 and 1851. Having therefore considered how they might most usefully apply that portion of the revenue of the Society to the particular circumstances of the year, the Council are of opinion that the most useful work they can undertake will be to encourage the production of philosophical treatises on the various departments of the Exhibition, which shall set forth the peculiar advantages to be derived from each to the arts, manufactures, and commerce of the country. They accordingly offer the large medal and twenty-five pounds for the best, and the Society's small medal and ten pounds for the second-best treatise on the objects exhibited in the section of raw materials and produce;—the same for the best and second-best treatises on the objects exhibited in the section of machinery,—for treatises on the objects exhibited in the section of manufactures,—and for treatises on the objects exhibited in the section of Fine Arts.

Each treatise is to occupy, and not exceed, eighty pages of the size of the Bridgewater Treatises. The Society will also award its large medal and twenty-five guineas for the best general treatise on the Exhibition, treated commercially, politically, and statistically; and small medals for the best treatises on any special object or class of objects exhibited. The treatises for which rewards are given are to be the property of the Society; and if deemed suitable for publication, should the Council see fit, they will cause the same to be printed and published, and will award to the author the net amount of any profits which may arise from the publication after the payment of the expenses. The treatises are to be delivered at the Society's House on or before the 30th of June, 1851. The Council announce that they do not intend to confine the rewards of the Society to the subjects above named; though, for the reasons given, they do not anticipate that communications of interest on other subjects will be submitted.

THE EXHIBITION OF PICTURES BY ANCIENT MASTERS AND DECEASED BRITISH ARTISTS AT THE GALLERY OF THE BRITISH INSTITUTION, 25, Pall Mall, is OPEN daily from Ten to Six.—Admission, 1s. Catalogue, 1s.

GEORGE NICOL, Secretary.

PANORAMA OF THE NILE.—Additions have been made to this Exhibition.—The Subian Desert, from the Second Cataract to Dongola.—War Dance by Firelight.—March of Caravan by Moonlight.—Morning Prayer.—The Mummy of a High Priest is added to the curiosities. Both the Mummy and the River are shown in the Painting.—**EGYPTIAN HALL, PICCADILLY.**—Daily, at Three, and Eight o'clock.—Stalls, 2s., 1st, 2s., Gallery, 1s.; Children and Scholars, Half-price.

INDIA OVERLAND MAIL.—DIORAMA.—GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION, 14, Regent-street, Waterloo-place.—Additional Pictures, MADRAS.—A Giantic Moving Diorama, ILLUSTRATING THE ROUTE OF THE OVERLAND MAIL TO INDIA, depicting every object worthy of notice on this highly-interesting journey from Southampton to Calcutta, accompanied by descriptive details and appropriate music, is now OPEN DAILY, Mornings at Twelve, Afternoons at Three, and in the Evening at Eight o'clock.—Admission, 1s.; Stalls, 2s. 6d.; Reserved Seats, 3s.—Doors open half-an-hour before each representation.

THE DIORAMA, Regent's Park.—Admission, One Shilling.—NOW OPEN, with the finest VIEWS ever exhibited in this country, representing the ROYAL CASTLE OF STOLZENFELS, on the Rhine, (visited by Her Majesty Queen Victoria in August, 1845) and its Environs, as seen at Sunset and during a Thunder Storm; painted by NICHOLAS MEISSEL, of Cologne. And the much-admired Picture of THE SIEGE OF THE BASTILLE, at Bethleem; painted by the late M. RENOUX, from a Sketch made on the spot by David Roberts, Esq., R.A., with novel and striking effects.—Open from Ten till Six.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.

During this week the ALPINE SLIDERS from Styria will perform several of their National Melodies, daily at Four, and in the Evenings at Half-past Eight.—**LECTURE ON CHEMISTRY,** by J. H. Pepper, Esq., daily at a Quarter-past Three, and in the Evening at Eight.—**ILLUSTRATING THE ANCIEN PIERRE ORDEAL AND THE HANDLING OF RED-HOT METALS.**—**LECTURE BY DR. BAUGHOPFNER ON VOLTAIC ELECTRICITY,** daily at Two, and in the Evening at a Quarter-past Nine.—**NEW SERIES OF DISSOLVING VIEWS,** illustrating some of the WONDERS OF NATURE, daily at Half-past Four, and in the Evening at a Quarter to Ten; also a Series, exhibiting SCENES IN THE ALPINE REGIONS AND CEYLON, daily at One o'clock.—**DIVER AND DIVING BELL,** &c. &c.—Admission, 1s.; Schools, Half-price.

SCIENTIFIC

A PHENOMENON OF OCCULTATION REFERRED TO THE FLEXION OF LIGHT.

In the paper some time since read by Lord Brougham before the French Academy of Sciences, giving an account of his experiments and observations on the Properties of Light, extracts from which are contained in your number of the 26th of January, I observe that the principal subject upon which he treats is, the flexion or bending of rays of light out of their course in passing near bodies. I have not had the opportunity of referring to the paper at large, to ascertain in what way Lord Brougham illustrates this subject, and explains the cause producing the flexion of rays of light,—and therefore I may be only repeating one of his own illustrations in calling the attention of your readers to the phenomenon which often occurs on the occultation of a star by the moon, when the star appears as if on the disc of our satellite; but if unnoticed by Lord Brougham, it may be not uninteresting to your readers to have their consideration led to the phenomenon, hitherto unexplained, as a confirmation of Lord Brougham's propositions.

Under the head "Occultation," in the Penny Cyclopædia, the phenomenon is well described.

On referring to this article some months since, when I had been asked for an explanation of the phenomenon, it occurred to me that the cause might be satisfactorily explained, and all the attendant circumstances accounted for, if rays of light in their passage through space were, by the attraction of

gravitation, inflected or bent towards bodies near to which they passed. The occultation of a star is the interception by the opaque body of a star of the rays of light emitted from the star, and which, but for being intercepted, would have reached the earth. Assume, then, that on the moon approaching a ray of light emitted from a star in the direction of the earth, the ray is inflected or bent towards the moon by the force of the moon's attraction. If a line be drawn through the centre of the moon at right angles with the ray of light in its direction towards the earth, that point of the moon's circumference cut by the line so drawn will be the point nearest to the ray of light, and which would, therefore, be the point at which the inflexion of the ray would be greatest; that point, also, would be on the edge of the moon's disc, as seen by a spectator on the earth. In the ray's onward progress across the moon's surface it would be inflected or bent in a curved line towards the moon, the inflexion decreasing as the convex surface of the moon receded, causing the attraction to diminish, the curvature of the ray being inverse to the curved surface of the moon. At 15° from the point of the greatest attraction and inflexion, the perceptible attractive influence of the moon would in all probability cease, and the ray of light would thence follow its onward course in a straight line parallel to its original course; thus, that point of the star from which the ray emanated would, to an observer on the earth, appear to be in the direction which the ray took after its inflection ceased,—that is, at the lowest point of the curve, so that the star would appear to hang on the moon's edge, or possibly to pass a short distance over the moon's surface, as in the observations recorded it has often appeared to do. It will be obvious that it must in some measure depend upon what portion of the moon's edge, as seen from the earth, approaches the star whether the phenomenon will be produced or not to an observer on the earth. The change of colour in the star, sometimes observed, may be produced by the inflected rays emitted from the star being blended with the rays reflected from the moon's surface, or one of the effects of inflexion may be to produce a change in the constituent character of the ray. If "the moon has an atmosphere close to the surface which reflects the sun's light and appears opaque like the body of the moon, but is sufficiently transparent to allow the star to shine through it," then on an eclipse of the sun, the apparent diameter of the moon as seen between the earth and the sun would be less than the apparent diameter when reflecting the sun's rays. Some have supposed that the phenomenon may be accounted for on the principle, that the moon has an atmosphere which refracts the star's rays; but it must be borne in mind that the ray reflected from the moon's surface would pass through the moon's atmosphere in the same direction as the star's ray, which had entered and had been refracted; their direction would be parallel also after quitting the refracting atmosphere, so that, though the apparent position of the point from which each ray started would to an observer on the earth be different from its actual position, yet the relative apparent position of each point would be the same. If a thin plate of metal which has a small hole bored through it be placed close to the inner surface of a glass vessel filled with water, and a strong light be put immediately behind the aperture, it will be found that the rays of light passing through the aperture and the rays reflected from the surface of the metal plate are both refracted in an equal degree, and have a parallel direction: if it were not so, there would appear on the surface of the plate a bright point of light distinct from the aperture through which the rays passed.—I am, &c.

S. C.

SCIENTIFIC GOSSIP.—Gas from Water.—Several of our contemporaries have been circulating an account of a supposed discovery, of the decomposition of water by very easy means, by a Mr. Payne, of Worcester, U.S. In the *Builder* we find the following, given on the authority of Elisha Burritt:—

"Mr. Payne does not claim the discovery of decomposing water, but he does claim the discovery of a new principle of electricity, by which the decomposition of water is very rapidly produced, at a merely nominal cost. . . . The entire labour required to make a day's supply of gas for a common dwelling-house does not occupy two minutes in turning a crank; and the machine takes up about as much room as a

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common mantle clock. Writing upon this subject, Elihu Burritt says:—"There is not only a saving of expense, but of weight, and the inconvenience and care of wood, coal, and oil, and the danger from fire are almost completely annihilated. This is not supposition: we saw the lights, followed the pipes to the cellar, and saw the apparatus employed for the decomposition of the water; and we must say we can hardly find words to express our astonishment at the simplicity of the machine, when, at the same time, we think of the greatness and grandeur of the discovery. This must rank, if not above, certainly equal with, the greatest discoveries and inventions of the age. Wood, and coal, and oil, and field may all be dispensed with by the use of Mr. Paine's apparatus." Mr. Burritt further says:—"Two jets such as were burning in his house would be sufficient to light a moderate-sized hall every night, at an expense of the interest on the cost of the machine (about six dollars per annum), with only the little trouble of occasionally filling the water cistern." It is understood that Mr. Paine has disposed of his proprietary right to his discovery for a sum which may at first seem incredible. The terms of purchase are reported to be five millions of dollars, half a million down. Mr. Paine is expecting a visit from the committee on gas of our city government, at Worcester to-day, to look into this matter."

Without doubting the correctness of Mr. Burritt's description of what he saw, we are quite prepared to expect that the whole matter will turn out to be a mistake. On the very face of the description we have the evidence of a great want of scientific knowledge. The "new principle of electricity" is a myth. Hydrogen alone has scarcely any illuminating power. How is carbon combined with it? and however useful the combination of oxygen and hydrogen may be as a source of heat, it is not suited for any ordinary system of illumination. Lastly, no physical force, whether light, heat, or electricity, can be produced without the change of state of some material agent somewhere, and consequently a source of expense exists of which we are not told. The following commentary of a correspondent to a New York paper is, in its way, instructive:—

"The scientific world is much excited by the supposed discovery of Mr. Payne, by which he decomposes water in a mechanical manner, producing light and heat by the recombination of hydrogen and oxygen. A number of gentlemen proceeded the other day to his residence in Worcester to examine his apparatus, previously to paying him an immense sum of money for his patent right. They did not happen to be very scientific men, and came back as wise as they went. They found a cistern of water, a gasometer floating in it, and in his room a small cylinder from which issued a jet of inflammable gas. No further explanation was made of the mode of producing it, as the payment of a large sum of money was required before the secret could be explained. As the parties are respectable and wealthy, if not so scientific, I think Mr. Payne missed a figure, if he be in earnest, in not exhibiting the interior of his machine. If Humphrey Davy, if I am not mistaken, predicted a similar discovery. Mr. Payne says he has made it, and now all he has to do is to light up a hotel and these gentlemen will pay him a round sum for his invention. Most people think he is a humbug;—and yet they may be mistaken. In America, as at home, this is most especially an age of pretension."

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

Natural Zoological, 3.—General Business.
In. Botanical, 5.

FINE ARTS

SALE OF THE EARL OF ASHBURNHAM'S PICTURES.

WITH the motives which may have induced the sale of a collection of works of Art, we in our character of trustees for the public can, of course, have no possible concern,—but we are bound to comment on any proceeding which implies want of ingenuousness towards that public. In this case the announcement of a collection of works of Art for sale attracted a host of visitors during an entire week; the great features of the attraction being a few matchless works which, having served their purpose as a decoy, are subsequently found to have been determinedly reserved,—the price at which they were put up being such as to defy any chance of competition. Thus, for instance, the 'Portrait of Rainier Anso and his Mother'—one of the most superb portraiture compositions of Rembrandt, bold in relief, picturesque in grouping, rich in colour, refined in its treatment, vigorous as well as delicate in handling, was bought in at the price of 4,000 guineas. The 'Village Fête' of David Teniers—one of his largest compositions, with figures also on a rather large scale and full of his accustomed character, spiritedly touched, but heavy in its tinting,—was bought in for 3,000 guineas:—so was 'A Ruined Château,' by Cuyt—a glowing picture

by a master whose reputation stands higher here than elsewhere—at 2,000 guineas. Many others we have reason to believe, were deliberately reserved, though used to swell the interest of the Catalogue. The following are the sums at which the principal pictures that found bidders were knocked down.

'St. Francis kneeling in Prayer,' by Murillo, fetched 1,050*l*. This is one of those transparent tinted and vapoury treatments proverbial in the best works of the artist.—An admirable portrait of the same painter by himself—better than those in Florence, or in the Standish or Taylor collections at Paris, showing a physiognomy corroborating all the qualities for which this painter's art is conspicuous—brought 829*l*. 10*s*.—The 'View near Rome, with the Ponte Molle,' by Claude—simple and broad in its effect, with a most sunny and luminous sky, engraved in the "Liber Veritatis," fetched 1,890*l*.—A 'View in the Bay of Naples,' by the same master,—presenting a striking contrast to the last in tone as in subject,—inferior in quality, and, notwithstanding the notice in the front of the Catalogue which informed us that "it is believed that none of these pictures have been in the hands of a picture-cleaner," exhibiting in the vivid present look of its sky and the heavy execution of the water (reflecting a very different condition of atmosphere), as well as by sundry other evidences, the mal-treatment of such an operator—sold for 1,123*l*. 10*s*. This is also engraved in the "Liber Veritatis."—'An old man seated before a cottage playing the hurdy-gurdy'—a beautiful work by Teniers—sold for 315*l*.—'A Mathematician leaning over a table,'—certainly not by Rembrandt, scarcely by Lievens, but by which of the Master's minor scholars it is difficult to say—fetched 1,050*l*.—'St. John baptizing Christ in the Jordan,' by Albano, realized 315*l*. It was a fair example of the artist.

There was nothing in two of the pictures by Salvator Rosa to justify any high reputation or price. The 'St. John preaching in the Wilderness' and 'Philip baptizing the Eunuch' are full of caprice in invention, bad drawing, and extravagant light and shade. They fetched 1,050*l*.—What this master could do when he chose was better exemplified in a 'Grand Landscape, with figures in the foreground, representing the story of Apollo and the Silyl.' Certainly this is one of the best works of the master in this department. It was purchased by the Marquis of Hertford for 1,785*l*. The picture is known by an engraving by Sharp.

The 'Portrait of Don Livio Odescalchi,' by Vandyke, is one of the fine manly portraits of this great artist, with a richness of colour and force of effect usual with him in those subjects which he painted during his Italian sojourn. The hands, however, are awkward in pose and in drawing. It fetched 475*l*. 10*s*. 'The Portrait of Vander Werf,' by himself, was of a certain interest. Though a master of great insipidity, his present picture is an exception to that fault of his style. It has good colour, and more freedom of touch than is usual with the master. It realized 126*l*. Among the Roman views by Occhiali, the best was the 'View of Rome from the Tiber, with St. Peter's on the right and Figures in the foreground.' It is free from any affectation and liberal in style. Two landscapes by Zuccarelli were singular contrasts to the foregoing,—unlike nature in their parts, fantastic and decorative in their ensemble. They fetched respectively 45*l*. 3*s*. and 38*l*. 17*s*. The 'Portrait of a Venetian Lady,' by Paul Veronese, was in so dirty a condition as completely to obscure the proverbial silvery tints of this artist's flesh-painting.—Carlo Dolce's 'Daughter of Herodias holding John the Baptist's head' is one of several *reptiche* of the subject. The one here is less blue in the general hue of its drapery and less fresh in its flesh tints than usual. It realized 735*l*. A study of Four Boys' Heads, ascribed to Parmegiano,—certainly of a clever paternity, but which we should be slow in assigning to that hand—was sold for 71*l*. 8*s*. The 'Bacchus and Ariadne, with Nymphs and Satyrs, on the Shore of the Isle of Naxos,' attributed to Guido, had certainly as ill-proportioned forms as have ever been looked on. It went for 420*l*. Rembrandt's 'Portrait of a Cavalier' is a less for-

cible representation than usual of the artist's style in effect as in touch. It brought 724*l*. 10*s*.

The large picture, a 'View of Tivoli,' by G. Poussin, is so discoloured that little else than a grand general effect can be observed. It sold for 504*l*. 'Lucretia stabbing herself,'—one of those small size presentations of female form in which Guido was so successful,—realized 325*l*. 10*s*.

The large picture by Caravaggio, 'St. Peter accused by the Damsel, who is pointing out the Disciple to two Soldiers in armour,'—obviously an early work, hard and unrefined,—sold for 115*l*. 10*s*. 'A Calm' and 'A Storm,' two charming little specimens by W. Van de Velde, fetched 168*l*. The 'Portrait of a Nobleman,' ascribed to Subterman, was a picture to provoke much difference of opinion. It is most carefully wrought, with a hand painted with that skill which would have done no discredit to Vandyke himself.

By some other hand than that of Rubens the figures must be in that combination of fruit and forms ascribed to him and entitled 'Nature unveiled by the Graces.' Despite of the lengthy description afforded by the Catalogue, there is internal evidence in the picture that bespeaks the hand of an inferior artist. The female forms, which have suffered much from cleaning, show none of the preparation peculiar to the master assumed. That Rubens ever painted the most minute details as is here pretended is a notion to raise a smile. The picture was purchased by Mr. Nieuwenhuys, for 1,050*l*.

Of the two classic combinations by Nicolo Poussin, 'The Triumph of Pan' was most to our taste. It is the best in composition, in colour, and in finish. It fetched 1,234*l*. 'The Triumph of Bacchus,' by the same artist, sold for 1,213*l*. 'Il Riposo' is a good specimen of Bolognese Art, ascribed to Annibale Carracci. It realized 315*l*. A singular work, a long 'Line of Heads of Persons looking down from a Gallery' on a Spectacle, by Schiavone, has much merit for its variety of character, costume and colour. It realized 86*l*. 4*s*. 'The Horn Book,' by Schedone, is so well-known a celebrity that the price which it fetched is easily accounted for. It was knocked down for 787*l*. 10*s*. 'A Youth in a White Dress,' said to be by Giorgione, sold for 262*l*. 10*s*. The remarkable little picture of 'St. Joseph and the Virgin presenting the infant Christ to the High Priest,' by Guercino, brought 420*l*.

A single paragraph must dispose of the remainder.—'Interior of a Cathedral,' by J. de Witte, brought 46*l*. 4*s*.; 'A frozen River,' by Schellincks, 99*l*. 15*s*.; 'Dutch River Scene,' by S. Ruysdael, 85*l*. 1*s*.; 'The Marriage of St. Catherine,' by N. Poussin, 189*l*.; 'Story of Apollo and Cyparissus,' by Rubens, 136*l*. 10*s*.; 'Louis XIV. with his army before Dunkirk,' 99*l*. 15*s*.; 'Portrait of Titian,' by himself, 388*l*. 10*s*.; 'The Martyrdom of St. Andrew,' by Carlo Dolce, 210*l*.; 'St. John in the Island of Patmos,' by Mola, 157*l*. 10*s*.; 'View in Italy,' by Lingelback, 262*l*. 10*s*.; 'Cockfighting and a Basket of Grapes,' by Snyder, 420*l*.; 'A romantic mountainous Landscape,' by G. Poussin, 105*l*.; 'A View on the Coast of Italy,' by G. Poussin, 105*l*.; 'A grand Landscape, with Cephalus and Procris in foreground,' by N. Poussin, 420*l*.; 'A mountainous Coast Scene,' Pynaker, 122*l*. 15*s*.

FINE-ART GOSSIP.—This is, amongst other features which characterize it, an age of Panorama-painting. The public is growing attached to this mode of seeing the world without the trouble or expense of locomotion; and this spreading inclination has naturally determined the application of much artistic talent in the direction in question. Mr. Allom's ability has been attested by his many sketches of Oriental and other scenery; and his Panorama of 'Constantinople, with the Bosphorus and Dardanelles,'—a private view of which took place at the Gallery in Regent Street on Saturday last,—will help his reputation. Among its most striking features may be enumerated, the Sultan's residence of Arnaout-Keul, and Babec on the Bosphorus,—the Castle of Asia,—the Sweet Waters of Asia (a fashionable lounge, and a gay and brilliant scene, with a richly

ornamented fountain as a leading object).—Therapia, the summer residence of the English and French ambassadors, with one of the aqueducts constructed to supply Constantinople with water seen in the distance,—and Encampments, with good groupings and picturesque scenery. The view where the Black Sea joins the Bosphorus is also very interesting:—a combination of fine scenery, with great variety of wood, water, sky, and figures, forming elements of a highly effective treatment. The second part of this Panoramic Exhibition opens with a solemn presentment of the Cemetery of Eyoub, an extramural place of burial of the Faithful. The Street of Tombs next claims attention. The entrance to the Mosque of Eyoub is, we are told, the place of inauguration of a new sultan; and the artist has here introduced some capital characteristic grouping. The Golden Horn is seen from the Eyoub landing-place, where the Sultan appears in his magnificent caïque. We have also shown to us the picturesque Mosque and Tombs of Shah-za-deh Djamei,—the Interiors of the Baths, where all the various processes of steaming, shampooing, &c. are going on,—the Subterranean Palace, Yere Batan Serai,—the Slave Market, with excellently disposed figures,—the Mosque of Sultan Soliman, with its very tall minarets,—Loungers listening to music in the Coffee House,—the crowded Bazaar, with its eager occupants,—the spacious Atmeidan, or Hippodrome,—the interior of Sta. Sophia, with the faithful at their devotions, (a building closely resembling St. Mark's at Venice,—which, in fact, was copied from it),—the Sublime Porte, a plain simple gateway, which from being the chief approach to the Sultan's palace has given its title to his government,—and the Garden of the Seraglio, with handsome brick buildings and roofs, reminding us of the Dutch taste of William the Third at our own Kensington Palace. These and many more are the attractions of a Panorama by means of which the painter has conveyed information at a glance which volumes would have failed so vividly to describe. The value of the picture as a work of Art is somewhat diminished by the artist's want of more extensive experience in the department of distemper-painting.

The British branch of the National Gallery—containing the Vernon Collection of the English school, and such specimens as we possess in further illustration of the history of Art in this country—has been brought together in Marlborough House,—and will be open to the public in the course of next week. The private view is fixed for the 1st of August. The Vernon collection is properly kept together; and every room containing any portion of the gift is distinctly marked as "Vernon Collection." The Hogarths, Wilkies, Reynolds, &c., are in other rooms.

We have received the following from a correspondent.—"In your review last week [see ante, p. 789] of the first publication issued under the auspices of the Arundel Society, you make some observations on the inefficient scale in which some of the most conspicuous works of the hero of the memoir, Fra Angelico, are rendered. This error—for such I agree with your reviewer that it is—must be the result of want of knowledge or of proper direction on the part of those who have the management of the concerns of that Society. I write, therefore, to ask, which among the leading artists of our day conversant with such matters can have led the Society into such a mistake? To have executed properly the principal works of the artist here so imperfectly represented would, I am aware, have occupied much time and occasioned much expense to the Society, and the publication of the entire series would necessarily have spread over a large number of years. But no one anxious for the important objects of which this Society has taken charge would grudge waiting until such time as these could be adequately realized.—Being myself one of those who are not entirely led away by some of the more florid styles of our present painters,—having much respect for the sincerity of some of the early masters, and being anxious to see their productions engraved with truth,—I have ventured to intrude on your space for the purpose of asking you, as above, if you know by

whose advice the present course has been followed?—I am, &c. AN AMATEUR OF THE ART."

The lovers of Art will be pleased to hear that the Great Bull and upwards of 100 tons of sculpture, excavated by our enterprising countryman Dr. Layard, are now on their way to England and may be expected in the course of September. In addition to the Elgin, Phigalian, Lycian and Boodroom marbles, our Museum will soon be enriched with a magnificent series of Assyrian sculptures. It is said at Nineveh that the French Government are determined to excel us in the exhibition of Assyrian works of Art, in order to compensate the comparative deficiency which the Louvre is obliged to acknowledge as to the treasures it possesses in the other great catalogues, and that large sums have been accordingly voted for the expenses of excavation. A drawing which represents the shipping of the sculpture has been just brought over by one of the Messrs. Lynch, of Bagdad, who has been with Dr. Layard exploring the remains of Nineveh. It represents the action of placing the Great Bull on board the Apprentice at Morghill, on the right bank of the Euphrates, about three miles above the old city of Bussorah. This place long formed the country residence of Col. Taylor, lately the political agent of this country at Bagdad and Bussorah, and is now rented, by Messrs. Stephen Lynch & Co., to the Hon. East India Company as a depot for their vessels on the Euphrates. Alongside the Apprentice is the Nicotris steamer, under the command of Capt. Jones, I.N.; whose influence with the natives is most powerful, and to whose assistance the success in effecting the difficult operation on the muddy and deserted banks of the Euphrates is in a great measure attributable. The Apprentice was sent out from this country by Mr. Alderman Finnis, at the instance of the Trustees of the British Museum, and to that gentleman, and his nephews Messrs. Lynch, the public are indebted for a periodical communication between the Thames and the Euphrates. Another vessel belonging to the Alderman is, we understand, about leaving London, and it is hoped that she may in like manner return home laden with the monuments and trophies of what we have been too apt to regard as the semi-fabulous metropolis of the ancient world.

The Royal Association for the Promotion of the Fine Arts in Scotland—the first, we believe, of those Art-Unions which have since sprung up in the Metropolis and other large towns of England and Scotland, and which must exercise so large an influence for good or for evil on Art—has been holding its anniversary meeting at Edinburgh. If with its objects this Association had been able to transmit to its imitators the principles on which they are carried out, many evils would have been avoided which are tending to the degradation of Art among ourselves and the misery of its professors. Most of the wholesome rules which we have again and again urged on the Art-Union of London—and which the Board of Trade, after insisting on their necessity, most unintelligibly waived—are in wholesome operation in this Scottish Association. The pictures for distribution are chosen by a committee selected for the purpose, under a rule which is expressed as follows.—"Resolved, that in order to afford the members of committee an opportunity of deliberately examining the merits of the works of Art to be proposed for purchase for the Association, each member of committee should, within eight days after the opening of the Exhibition of the Royal Scottish Academy, send in to the secretary a list of works, not exceeding twelve in number, which appeared to him worthy of being considered for purchase: that the secretary, within three days thereafter, should circulate among the members of committee a list embracing the whole works thus selected; and that the proposals for purchase at the first meeting of committee held for this purpose should be confined to those works of Art enumerated in the said list." In addition to the prizes so purchased, out of the money subscribed a sum is set apart for the purchase of some one work of high merit, to be placed in the national galleries of Scotland;—and this year the Committee have purchased Mr. Noel

Paton's 'Quarrel of Oberon and Titania,' for the price of 700*l*. The picture is to be placed in the galleries of the Royal Institution, which are open to the public. A marble statuette of Sir Walter Scott, made by Mr. Steell after his colossal statue of the great novelist, executed by him some years ago for the Scott Monument, has been purchased by the Committee for a sum of one hundred guineas, and Mr. Copeland was employed to make one hundred copies of the statuette in statuary porcelain. The original was made a prize as well as the copies; but the copyright it was provided should remain the property of the Association, with a view to guarding against piracy, and rendering the copies issued by the Association more select and valuable. A mould is therefore to be made by Mr. Steell from the original marble before it is sent off to its proprietor, and the mould to be retained in the hands of the secretary, for behoof of the Association.—It was stated that the amount of subscriptions for the year is 3,480*l*; and that of this sum 1,258*l* has been expended on paintings, 405*l* on the productions of sculpture, and 775*l* on engravings.

The *Brussels Herald* says:—The carriage which is to be used at the coronation of his Majesty the Emperor of Austria, and which is to be restored, was constructed during the reign of the Emperor Charles, who had it made for the marriage of his daughter, Maria Theresa. Since that time, this vehicle was only made use of on the occasion of the coronation of the Emperors at Frankfort. The gilding alone cost 13,000 florins, and the paintings which adorn the panels are from the pencil of Rubens, and cost 60,000 florins.

A Frankfort journal states that the colossal statue of Bavaria, by Schwanthaler, which is to be placed on the hill of Seudling, surpasses in its gigantic proportions all the works of the moderns. It will have to be removed in pieces from the foundry where it is cast to its place of destination,—and each piece will require sixteen horses to draw it. The great toes are each half a metre in length. In the head two persons could dance a polka very conveniently,—while the nose might lodge the musician. The thickness of the robe—which forms a rich drapery descending to the ankles—is about six inches, and its circumference at the bottom about two hundred metres. The Crown of Victory which the figure holds in her hands weighs one hundred quintals (a quintal is a hundred-weight).

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

CONCERTS OF THE WEEK.—As a foreign friend remarked on the occasion, such a concert as that offered to her friends by *Mlle. Ida Bertrand* on Monday last would have turned the heads of the "gentle and simple" lovers of music in many a German *Residenz*; whereas, offered to our London public in this blazing month of July, it was attended by but a thin audience.—The concert-giver, who is much more attractive as a concert mezzo-soprano than as a theatrical *contralto*, was assisted by almost all her playmates at *Her Majesty's Theatre*:—*Madame Sontag* sang for her liberality. In her *solos* this lady is almost *sans reproche*; in her duets, however, she does not—perhaps she cannot—blend with her partner, being obliged to reserve her voice for her cadences and ornaments. A novelty was, the pianoforte playing of a *Herr Lubeck*, from the Hague. Like *M. Silas*, this young gentleman meritoriously asserts the wakening activity of Holland in the matter of music. He is certainly one among the best of the new pianists—frank in style, brilliant in finger—natural in his reading, as distinguished from the players of the hyper-expressive school,—and only wanting a touch or two of grace and elegance to be highly attractive as well as praiseworthy. *Herr Lubeck* performed a clever study (we believe of his own composition), and afterwards Mendelssohn's charming *capriccio* in E minor.—We hope and expect to hear of him often again.

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA.—The late period of the week at which 'La Juive' has been produced at Covent Garden renders such lengthened notice as so magnificent a production demands a matter for

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postponement. The epithet is claimed in every sense of the word by the scale of scenic decoration (essential to M. Halévy's master-piece), by the orchestral and choral execution, and by the pre-eminence of one principal character—the *Rachel*—by Madame Viardot which demands future analysis and remark. The entire success of the opera was won the evening before last under circumstances of peculiar peril. At "the eleventh hour" Signor Mario was indisposed—and the performance must needs have been postponed had not Signor Marini sung the part in French abroad and announced himself ready to do as much in Covent Garden without rehearsal. The excellent manner in which he went through his task, arguing the preparation of a thorough artist and displaying vocal powers unsuspected by the majority of the opera frequenters, was not lost on the public. The improvised *Lacaro* was received with most merited cordiality. But of the opera and the artists more next week.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP.—Among the principal vocalists already engaged for the Gloucester Festival, are Madame Sontag and Madame Castellani.—It is said that Madame Sontag will possibly join Signor Ronconi's Italian opera *corpo*, at Paris, during the winter:—which throws a certain colour of possibility on another report—to the effect, that Mr. Lumley is still anxious to associate himself in the management of that establishment, and is now negotiating with such an object in view.

Meanwhile, for the first time in our memory, *Her Majesty's Theatre* is to be opened in October, for a series of grand national Concerts vocal and instrumental.—In announcing these as projected by a society of most influential personages and wealthy speculators, the *Morning Post* of Tuesday last, promised that the scale of these entertainments shall be unprecedentedly superb, the engagement of artists home and foreign unprecedentedly liberal, and the selection of music unprecedentedly wide and choice, (the two things being by no means incompatible). We are most happy to receive such a promise of pleasure during the dreary days "when the English hang and drown themselves." Mismanaged as the Wednesday Concerts were, their partial success, nevertheless, was significant of the desire of the Londoners for some winter musical entertainment differing from those provided by M. Jullien and by the several choral societies. If this can be cheap as well as good—so much the better.—With regard, however, to price a word has to be said; and if a vast audience is to be collected on terms of entrance which leave when the season is over a beggarly "amount" of debt to the exhibiting artists—"hollow murmurs" coming from a band unpaid—*solo* singers unpaid—instrumentalists unpaid—barm, rather than good, is done by the low price of ticket. This law is laid down with no desire of arbitrary and aristocratic demarcation; but from some observation of facts as they exist,—from some conviction that the best concert-music cannot be worthily presented to audiences exceeding a given number,—and from some fear that within these limits the low rates of payment affected by those in quest of popularity may mean large arrears of debt to those whose exhibitions have furnished the main attractions to the bills.—The conductor is not named. On his disappointment much of the success of the undertaking will depend.

Old phenomena present themselves in both of our opera-houses, showing anew (did any one need new proof) with how little wisdom those worlds are governed. For instance, why give an act of 'Semiramide' for Madame Sontag's benefit, when she has only just made her greatest hit as 'La Figlia,' when her Queen can be but "a gracious," not a "guilty" Queen at strongest, and when her *Arace* is still "to seek"?—And why give 'Semiramide' at the rival theatre, where the attraction of the work was worn out during its first—the *Albani* season—being susceptible of no revival under Middle. Angri's fiery reign—and where it must be now seriously lessened owing to the declining vocal powers (there is no concealing facts

which artists will not themselves conceal) of Signor Tamburini?

The Bach Society is about to open its doors on Monday evening to a few friends—for the purpose of treating them to a hearing of some of the much-talked-of Motetts by the great composer. A selection from his pianoforte compositions will also, we hear, be performed.

In addition to the melancholy record which we had last week to make under this head, we have to note the death of Mr. Munyard, the comedian of the Adelphi. He died on Monday week, the 15th inst.

MISCELLANEA

The Sting of the Passport System.—What I write I write as a warning for the wives of England, that, if they do travel, they may take care and go abroad with their husbands, on the same piece of paper. * * The Ambassador smiled a bit, and went on writing. "There go my eyes upon the paper," said I to myself, as he looked at me; and whether or no, I did feel 'em twinkle. "And that's my nose, I'm sure of it," for it suddenly burnt so; "and that's my mouth," and I couldn't help smiling at the thought,—and that's my complexion,—for I felt a flush,—and that's my hair; and now I'm finished." And having given my name, of course, I thought it was all over; when the Ambassador—as if he had been asking for the coolest thing in life—said, in a sort of English that even a poodle might be ashamed of—"What is your age!"—"What!" cried I, and they might have heard me in the street—"What is your age?" said the Ambassador once more, twisting his ferret moustachio in such an aggravating way that I could have torn it off.—"Well!" said I, "what next?" And that's all he got out of me.—"What is Madame's age?" said the Ambassador, beginning to laugh.—"What a question for a polite Frenchman!" said I, laughing too. "Ask a lady's age! Well I'm sure!"—"I must know Madame's age," said the Ambassador.—"It's like your impudence," said I, "and you'll know nothing of the sort."—"Then Madame can't go to France," said the Ambassador, throwing down his pen.—"What is it to France how old I am? France is very curious. Perhaps I'm five-and-twenty," said I.—"Five-and-twenty," cried the Ambassador, and where he learnt the words I can't tell, "suppose, Madame, for sport, we go double or quits?"—"My blood did boil, but I contrived to say nothing—only to laugh."—"Really, Madame," said the brute, beginning to be gruff, "I must have your age."—"Well, then," said I, throwing my veil quite back as if daring him to do his worst, "as for my age, there's my face; and take what you like out of that."—The wretch laughed—wrote something—and gave me my passport, which I did not look at, I was in such a passion, till I'd locked myself fairly in my room at home. Would you believe it? When I unfolded the passport, I saw within as my description:—"Aged"—which is French for "Aged."—But no, Mr. Punch, not even to you will I reveal the insult that's been put upon me.—*Mrs. Amelia Mouser, in 'Punch.'*

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—M. H. B.—J. W. L.—S. C. W.—A. B.—V. R.—D. G. R.—J. A. S.—H. H.—J. E.—J. R.—J. G. F.—W. D.—received.

YOUR CONSTANT READER.—We cannot venture to make the contradiction which this correspondent, who writes from Berlin relative to the Royal Library, desires, unless we know the authority on which we do so,—the writer's means of knowledge and his connexion or otherwise with the subject. If he be a party interested, we will insert any contradiction made in his own name.

AN OLD RESIDENT ON THE LOIRE must permit us to say that he has mistaken the nature of our commendation of Mr. Laing's work. We expressly guarded ourselves against discussing any question of detail with Mr. Laing,—our inquiry being confined to the far more important subject of the principles involved in his book. Even in quoting the passage to which our correspondent refers we contented ourselves with merely presenting it as proof that Mr. Laing can use his eyes and ears exceedingly well.—Our correspondent thinks that Mr. Laing has fallen into certain archaeological inaccuracies. That is a question which could not, as he should see, have been profitably discussed in the course of our recent articles. But we must say that had it suited our object to inquire into that matter, we are not sure that we could not have shown Mr. Laing to be by no means so far wrong as our correspondent would make him out.

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